



*By Friendship United,
In Affliction Supported.*

J. Roberts

British Assurance-Society.

_____ was
admitted a Member of the _____
Division of the above named Society, on the _____
Day of _____ 179 _____ for the _____
Day of _____
Quarterly Payments due the _____
the Months of _____
_____ in every Year.

Hours of Attendance at the Society's Hall, N^o 129.

Aldersgate Street, London.

from 9 in the Morning, till 2 o'Clock in the Afternoon, and
from 5 till 8 o'Clock in the Evening.

3. Whereas many Members and others frequently
apply at the Office, between the Hours of 2 and 5 o'Clock
in the Afternoon, affirming that they did not know the
Office was shut during that Time, All Persons are there-
fore desired to take Notice, that no Business will be done
between those Hours. Nor after 8 o'Clock in the
Evening.

Great Britain & Ireland 1 to 66
13th Nov R
1803
RULES, ORDERS, & REGULATIONS,

OF A
FRIENDLY SOCIETY,

CALLED THE
BRITISH ASSURANCE SOCIETY,

Held at No. 129, ALDERSGATE-STREET,

NOW FULLY ESTABLISHED BY

ACT OF PARLIAMENT,

Was first formed on the 26th of October 1773, and on the 24th Day of March 1779, was further established by Deed, Inrolled in his Majesty's Court of King's Bench, Westminster. For the Mutual Benefit, Relief, Assistance, and Support of the Members of this Society, the Widows and Children of deceased Members, in Case of Sicknefs, Lameness, Blindness, Superannuation, Death, and Incidental Casualties.

TO WHICH IS ADDED BY WAY OF PREFACE,

Some Remarks on the Utility of Benefit Societies in General, and the Public Advantages of this Society in Particular.

*As we have therefore Opportunity, let us do Good to all Men,
Galatians, Chap. vi. Ver. 10.*

L O N D O N:

Printed for the Society, by J. BROWNE, 1795.

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ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION

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I N D E X,

- I. **T**HAT this Society shall be perpetuated by the Name of the "BRITISH ASSURANCE SOCIETY," and that its Funds shall not be misapplied, but only appropriated to the uses declared and directed in the following Articles.
- II. That all Affairs of this Society shall be conducted and governed by Persons elected and to be elected for Directors, as a standing Committee, for General Purposes.
- III. Names of Present Trustees to hold Office for Life, on giving Security for faithful Execution of Trusts.
- IV. Present Treasurer and Secretary to hold their Offices for Life, on giving Security for faithful execution of Trusts.
- V. Names of Directors, and they invested with full Power as a Committee for General Purposes.
- VI. Directors to be Sworn and form of the Oath.
- VII. Vacancy of Treasurer, Secretary or Trustees how filled up.
- VIII. Directors duration in Office, how determinable and filled up.
- IX. All Elections to be at the Society's principal Meeting-house.
- X. Directors to Determine all Complaints, and to inflict reasonable Fines, but the same Subject to appeal by Arbitration.
- XI. Directors if necessary to Appoint a Committee for particular Purposes; and to make necessary Bye Laws for keeping good Order, if not repugnant to confirmed Rules, or the Laws of this Realm.
- XII. Directors to Appoint Auditors of Accounts, their Duty and in Rotation to Visit the Sick, &c.
- XIII. Directors if necessary to Appoint inferior Officers, or Servants, and award necessary Disbursements.
- XIV. Directors if necessary to protect Societies Interests, to Commence, or Defend Suits, and in whose Names.

XV. Treasurer's Duty and Salary.

XVI. Secretary's Duty, Oath, and Salary.

XVII. Messenger for Life, his Duty and Salary.

XVIII. Declaration to be signed by every Person previous to being admitted a Member, and Premiums for Admission.

XIX. Further Premiums to be paid on Admission.

XX. Directors may Advance, Premiums on Admission, averaged to their Stock.

XXI. Persons accustomed to Drunkenness and other Vices, not to be admitted.

XXII. Quarterly Payments.

XXIII. Payments to be made by Persons admitted as Batchelors, or Widowers, on becoming married. And Members to Register every hereafter taken Wife, or new Born Children, within what Time, and Penalty for Neglect.

XXIV. When Members deemed Free, and half Free.

XXV. Members divided into different Divisions, and Directors to have Power to Appoint and remove Country Meeting Houses.

XXVI. Society to Fund Annually, Two Hundred Pounds for each Thousand Members, and if necessary to raise quarterage to effect the same.

XXVII. Sufficient Sum of running Cash to be kept at the Bankers, and how and in what Manner to place out Residue.

XXVIII. For what Offences Members expellable and power in Directors to mitigate.

XXIX. Payments and Allowances to Half Free Members, and Members afflicted with the Small Pox.

XXX. Allowance to afflicted Members, the Time of advanced Benefits, and Payments thereon.

XXXI. Benefits and Allowance to superannuated Members,

XXXII. Allowance to Members afflicted with the Small Pox, and disorders arising therefrom, or Death happening thereby.

XXXIII. Allowance to Members imprisoned for Debt.

XXXIV. Payments to be made on the Decease of Free Members, or Wives, and to whom.

XXXV. Members only entitled to such Benefits on Afflictions, as by Time and Payments, they will be entitled to when Afflictions take Place, but may afterwards entitle themselves to Advance Benefits.

XXXVI. Allowance to Widows for Children of deceased Members, and on the Death of such Widow, such Orphan Children, to be educated, maintained, and cloathed by the Society, until Fourteen Years of Age, and then the Boys to be apprenticed, and Girls to be put out.

XXXVII. Widows to receive Three Pounds for Lying-in if Pregnant at the Time of their Husband's Decease.

XXXVIII. Members dying, leaving superannuated Widows, Allowances to them, as also to subscribing Widows, and their Payments.

XXXIX. Consequence of Members making Default to Register Wives or Children.

XL. Members sustaining Damage by Fire, to be paid the Amount of Loss, not exceeding Twenty Pounds, by a Subscription from the Members.

XLI. Members become excluded for Neglect of Payment, but to have Notice thereof, and the Terms of re-admission.

XLII. Sick Members to Subscribe to the Treasury, unless Pensioners, when Payments to Cease.

XLIII. Payments for advanced Benefits when to be made, and the Notice thereon.

XLIV. Notice to be given of Funerals and Certificates thereof if required.

XLV. Declarations to be sent by Sick Members and restrictions touching such Members.

XLVI. Members to attend on Summons, or forfeit Twenty Shillings for Neglect.

XLVII. Members removing from Place of Residence to give Notice to the Secretary.

XLVIII. When the Stock is sufficiently augmented, Directors empowered proportionably to increase Benefits.

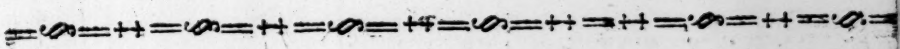
XLIX. Directors to attend all Monthly, or extra Meetings, or Subject to Fine and Expulsion.

L. An annual Dinner to be provided on the last Tuesday in June Yearly, at discretion of Directors.

LI. Secretary on Request, and on Payment of Three Shillings and Six-pence to procure a Certificate agreeable to the Act of Parliament of Persons belonging to this Society, being a Member to prevent a removal from Place of Residence by Parish Officers.

LII. Expences of these Articles, &c. to be paid by a Contribution from the Members, and not out of the Society's Stock.

LIII. Members conceiving themselves aggrieved by any thing done, or omitted to be done by any of the Officers of this Society, entitled to an Appeal by Arbitration, in manner as mentioned in this Article.



P R E F A C E.

THE Directors of this Society are aware of the Ideas which may occur to some of those disinterested Persons, into whose Hands this General Plan of Accommodation may Fall, and that Reason will suggest to them, that those who have framed the Laws, and are engaged in the Management of such a Society, will be forward and warm in its Commendation, under the Hope that every additional Support it receives, will add to their Consequence; but the solid Brilliance of Plain reasoning is ever to be distinguished from the Glitter of Specious and unmeaning Sophistry, and therefore, to advance on the side of Public Utility, such Arguments as the most common understanding cannot be deceived in, may rather be deemed an Effort to Enlighten and Serve the uninformed, than censured as an Intention of misleading the unwary.

When we reflect on the Instability of Earthly Happiness, and how many Accidents perpetually Shake the firmest designs of Human Prudence, when we know that it is Commendable to alleviate as much as possible the heavy Visitation of Providence, by relieving each other in the Time of Sickness, or Affliction; we cannot shut our Eyes against those Benefits which must result from an Association, of the Honest and Industrious, for the Sole Purpose of affording such Relief, and holding out to the trembling hand of Sickness; the Balmy Cup of Comfort,

for

for though Individuals, however, actuated by Benevolence, cannot carry into Effect any Plan to Answer so benign a design, the Lives and Health of Men seperately considered, not being certain for a Moment, yet in numbers collected together in One Body as it were, render the same Permanent, and there Ceases to be any Danger of the Failure of their Object, particularly in a Society like this, consisting of many Hundred Members; the Death of One, or Many cannot shake the general Prosperity, as there cannot exist a doubt; but there will ever be sufficient remaining to carry into Effect, those Regulations which must Promote the Benefit of all.

The first and most essential Observation we shall advance, concerns the Safety and Security of those who now do, or may hereafter belong to this Society; and it should be an Important Consideration with every Man, previous to his becoming a Member of it, to examine well upon what Foundation the Relief of the Necessitous is established; and whether ample Provision is made by the Articles, and there exists in its Funds, a sufficient Supply for the Benefits held out; to this Question, which is both Natural and Prudent; we are qualified to return a Satisfactory Answer; for this Society was first formed in the Year 1773; and although it has struggled with all those Difficulties, which every Establishment in its Infancy is sure to Encounter from Envy and Prejudice; yet the Directors have invariably answered every just Claim on the Society; and have besides invested in different Funds, more than could have been expected, when it is considered how many modes of Relief it has adopted for the Benefit of Individuals; and the Increase of its Members, have rendered

dered it at once Respectable and Powerful, neither can the hard earned savings of the Laborious be misapplied, for here all Possibility of Fraud is excluded, as no Person can be entrusted with any Part of the Property of the Society; or the Direction or Application of it, without having first given full and ample Security, to the Amount of the Trust reposed; a Regulation which Secures to every Member, the Advantages resulting from the Provision he has made, especially when it is known, that not only the Internal Laws of the Society have provided against every abuse of its Power, but that the Legislature has also interposed its Authority, and wisely provided, that if any Person intrusted with the Society's Money or Effects, or any Securities relating thereto; shall Die, become Bankrupt, or Insolvent, his Executors, Administrators, or Assignees, shall after Demand made by Order of the Society, deliver all Things belonging to them, and pay out of the Assets, or Effects of such Person, all Monies Due, before any of his other Debts are paid or satisfied; and that all Officers of the Society, who shall have, or receive any Monies belonging thereto; shall on Demand give in their Accounts, and Pay over all Monies in their Hands, and Transfer over all Stock or Securities for Money, to such Person as shall be appointed by the Society; and on neglect or refusal so to do, a remedy is given of an Application by Petition to the Court of Chancery, or Exchequer, which Courts, are on such Petition, to proceed in a Summary Way, and make such Order therein, at their Discretion as shall seem Just; and such Courts are directed to assign Counsel, and Appoint a Clerk in Court, to advise and carry on such Petition without Fee or Reward; so that the Society have the fullest Protection of the Law, without being subjected to the alarming Expence which attend the Recovery of Property, in every other Case; an Advantage which

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will

will induce Numbers to join these Benevolent Institutions, and thereby Provide against the Vicissitudes of Life, whom the insecurity of Benefit Society's in General had hitherto deterred.

In the Hour of Prosperity, or at least of Health, the Trifle which is spared from the Wages of Industry is scarcely felt; and at least cannot be remembered grudgingly, when we reflect that the Small Portion of Seed we Scatter, will afford the Welcome Harvest of Relief, in the Season of Affliction; the Pain of a diseased Body may be Great, but how is it aggravated when joined to the gnawing of Want, and with what Agony must a Sick and Helpless Father look round on his famished Children, for whom he cannot get Bread, and who, when the Hand of Death seizes him; will be left to the Mercy of an Inhospitable World, without a Prop, on which they can rest for Support; is this a Lamentable Truth, or does the Pen of Fiction draw the dark Portrait; let us be judged by the candid Voice of Public Observation, if among the lower Orders of Society, these shocking Scenes of departing Nature do not continually happen, and if they do, shall we not be permitted to hold out to those of our Fellow Creatures, subject to become thus unfortunately situated, a Prospect of lessening what cannot be wholly removed, the horrors of a Death Bed, since under the Assurance that the Distrest Widow he may Leave behind; would have an Auxilary Provision for her Children, from the Funds of the Society, or if those Children should unhappily become Orphans, they will be amply provided for: and the Man whose Life had been spent in an Honest Endeavour to secure these Advantages, will resign his Spirit far more quietly, than he who having unprovidently

dently wasted his Time and Money, in the disorderly practices of a Public House; Dies and Leaves a wretched Family, with the melancholy Reflection that he had abused his Reason, and imprudently neglected to make some Provision for them when he had the means in his Power.

The little laid up by the Considerate and Domestic Man, against a Rainy Day, amounts not in a Year to more than the Unhappy Sot allows himself for a few Evenings indulgence, in his horrid Propensity to Liquor; an Indulgence which Leaves him nothing to Remember it by, but a Face bloated with its pernicious Effects, an emaciated Body, and a Heart grown corrupt with bad Habits, and worse Example.

There is also a great distinction in the method of conducting and managing Institutions of this Nature; the Conduct in this is entrusted to Persons annually elected and Chosen for their Talents and Respectability, by and from amongst the Free Members of the Society at large, and are bound by its Regulations to a Conscientious Discharge of their Duty; and from such mode of Selection, there is the greater probability of securing Persons equal to the design, than where they are indiscriminately called out in Societies, where every Member is obliged to partake of the Charge; some Institutions frequently become Injurious, rather than Serviceable to Poor Men, when they are obliged to attend them at a Public House, where they are led into the Expensive Practice of Intoxication, so pernicious to the Welfare and Comfort of their Families, and where in Consequence of there being no selected Persons to Govern their Concerns, every Member is called upon to become a Temporary

pory Head of his Society, for which he may neither be possessed of Time or Abilities; and hence arise the Innumerable Fines paid by Members of other Society's, which have sometimes amounted to more than the Quarterage, and these are Circumstances highly detrimental to the Industrious, setting aside the eternal dissensions which will ever arise, where there are no selected Conductors, and where every Individual can interfere, according to his own Private Opinion; however bad his Principles or mean his Talents; the compulsion of Personal Attendance, which frequently afford an excuse for a Perversion of the good Use of Time is excused in this Society, and every Man is sure of receiving the Benefit of his Savings, without having upon his mind the Care of securing them, as Absent or Present, the Directors of the Society impartially Observe the Interests of all; an Attention which even Policy must induce them to Pay, because as Members themselves, whatever Conditions are imposed on the Society at large, they must participate in, a Consideration which must give to every Member the Satisfaction of feeling, that his own Interest cannot be injured, because it is inseparably connected with their own.

Those who are inclined to Consider the Plan of this Institution, more attentively may peruse the Regulations which this Publication contains, from which they will more clearly discern the Good, it diffuses through the Various Channels of Society; those on whom Heaven has showered Abundance, who are the Stewards to whom the Talent is intrusted, cannot employ it to a better Purpose than increasing that Fund, which is dedicated to the Poor Pensioners of Human Charity; and which may Cause the Widows Heart to Sing for Joy, the Opulent are not supposed

posed to consider themselves Objects of its Benevolence; but it is a Question, whether those who live in constant Habits of Charity to all Men, can employ that Charity better then in contributing to the Resourfes of the Invalid, and smoothing the rugged Brow of Want.

*These are the Souls who touched with Fire Divine,
Give Gold a Price, and Teach its Beams to Shine;
All boarded Treasures, they Repute a Load,
Nor think their Wealth, their Own, till well bestow'd;
Through Secret Streams, diffusively they bless,
Grand Reservoirs of Public Happiness.*

This Society is protected by the Constitution, and every Person desirous of becoming a Member, may see the Path he is about to Tread. Its excellence indeed has been felt by Thousands, whom it has relieved, and acknowledged by all well-disposed Persons, who have become entitled to its Benefits; indeed its only Enemies are those whose Vices and Enormities have obliged the Society to expel as Members, and if such a Discretionary Power were not vested in its Heads, it would soon be over-run by a set of Disorderly Wretches, who Trample on the Comforts of their Fellow Creatures, where ever they are introduced; the Clamours of such People; it is wished the Impartial Reader will not listen to, without making an Inquiry into their Origin; and if it arises from any Defect in the Management of their Plan, he is at Liberty to Condemn it as severely as he Pleases, but every Good which Human Wisdom can Propose, is Subject to Censure

sure from the illiberal and Wicked, and such as Fancy they are injured for.

*Envy does Merit, like its Shade Pursue,
And like the Shadow, proves the Substance True.*

Protected as this Society is by the LEGISLATURE, it is Improbable any real Injury can exist, and it is greatly to the Honor of this Society, that the Managers thereof alone; Particularly attended to the Progress of the Act for the Encouragement and Relief of Friendly Society's in General, and when the Bill was in a very late Stage of it's Passage through the House of Lords, they at a very Considerable Expence, and with unremitting Perseverance, procured the addition of the Clause, which Empowers them to refer all Disputes which may arise, in Consequence of any Member, or other Person entitled to any Benefits of this Society, conceiving themselves, aggrieved by any Thing done, or omitted to be done by the Officers of this Society, to a Friendly Arbitration, by Persons of an equal Number, to be named by the Party thinking himself aggrieved, and the Trustees of the Society; a more equitable method of adjusting differences, certainly could not be devised than that of trusting to the Interference of a few Friends, as in such an Appeal, we have no Reason to Fear, either that Litigation can be provoked, or the Division of the contending Parties made wider; the Common Consequence of appealing to Law, in Dissensions which Friendship might Amicably Terminate, with more Satisfaction, and far less Expence or Trouble.

All legalized Societies are much indebted to Mr. Rose, the Member of Parliament, to whose Judgment in framing,
and

and Activity in carrying the Bill for Legalizing certain Societies through Parliament; much praise is due, as he thereby has insured Protection to a Number of Honest and well-meaning Persons, who without having their Rights secured by the Legislature, would have been Fearful of confiding their little all to Men, who had no Fear of Punishment, to deter them from making an ill Use of it; he has also done the Public an Important Service, by relieving the Parishes from some deceased and needy Wretches, who frequently become Burthens to them, for not only the Parents of Families are Objects of this Society's Consideration; but also the Allowance made to the Widows, of Free Members is such as may enable her to Struggle on without being necessitated to apply to a Parish for Support; Orphans too which are perpetually thrown on Workhouses, at the decease of their Parents, are by the Laws of this Institution, wholly provided for at its Expence.

Have only to add that the Perfect Operations of every System, must depend on the Strength and Solidity of its Parts, and therefore every Acquisition to our Number, will Furnish us with more Extensive Means of effecting the Relief and Comfort of those who have a Claim to our wanted Care, and it is thus, that the ends of Human Society, are answered the Protection of a God, who delighteth in the Happiness of his Creatures, will ever rest over a few, who have united together, to chear the painful Pilgrimage through this world by Acts of Good-fellowship, and Mutual kindness to each other, who have connected themselves for the Laudable end of blunting those Thorns which Pierce the naked Feet of Misery, and form together one vast Shield against the attacks of every Species of Calamity, to which Human Nature is liable.

LINES ADDRESSED TO THE
DIRECTORS AND MEMBERS
OF THE
BRITISH ASSURANCE SOCIETY,

By a L A D Y.

IS there a Heart alive to Friendship's Charms,
Which pity Softens, or which kindness Warms;
Is there a Breast, which feels the genial Fire,
The social Charities of Life inspire;
Such will that firm, that Friendly Bond approve,
Which binds mankind, in one vast chain of Love;
Such in my Song, with fervent zeal will join,
Will feel the warmth, that wakes a lay like mine;
They share with Joy, her genuine sprightly strain,
They drop the pitying Tear with wretched Pain;
They love to pour on wants unhappy Breast,
That Balm which bids the sigh of suffering rest;
If ought is dear, to Heaven's benignant Eye,
'Tis the sweet incense, virtuous Acts supply;
With joy th' Almighty sees his Children Move,
In one harmonious round of Social Love;
Bright shines his Image, in the Human Soul,
When each Unites to aid, to bless the Whole;
And on that Soil, where such Affections Grow,
He bids the Choicest Streams of favor flow;
His are this Chosen few, by Friendship Bound,
Who heal by mutual care, Afflictions Wound;
Who in the Cheerful Day of Summer, Store
Treasures to cheer the Winter's dreary Hour;
To bid the gloomy Face of Famine Smile,
And the keen throbs of Agony beguile;
His Providence, to all their wants shall Pour,
Like the good Widow's Cruise, a ceaseless store;
To such shall his peculiar care be given,
For Love and Charity, are born of Heaven.

INTRODUCTION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME.—WHEREAS, on or about the 26th. Day of OCTOBER, in the YEAR 1773, divers Persons formed themselves into a Society, intituled, “THE FREE BRITISH SOCIETY,” for the Purpose of raising and establishing a Fund, to be applied to the laudable Purposes of mutually Relieving, Assisting, and Supporting the Members thereof, their Families, Widows, and Children of deceased Members, in Cases of Sickness, Lameness, Blindness, Superannuation, Death, and other Incidents and Casualties ; And the said Society, about the Year 1779, became considerably increased, and by a certain Deed, by Way of Policy, bearing Date the Twenty-fourth Day of March, in the said Year 1779, which was Inrolled in His Majesty’s Court of King’s Bench, and in which Deed the said Society was styled, and hath ever since been called and known by the Name of “THE BRITISH ASSURANCE SOCIETY.”

The Members of the said Society mutually concluded and agreed, that they would be governed, guided, and bound by Persons named, and to be named and elected as a Committee, and therein termed and called a Court of Directors; and that the Business, Affairs, and Concerns of the said Society, should be transacted, conducted, settled, regulated and carried on by them ; and Power was by the said Deed given and reserved for the said COURT OF DIRECTORS, to make and constitute such, and so many reasonable Statutes, Bye Laws, Rules, Orders, and Ordinances as from Time to

Time should appear necessary, for the better carrying on, upholding, maintaining, and regulating the Designs, Affairs, and Concerns of the said Society; and again, at their Pleasure to revoke, annul, make void, alter, amend or make anew, as change of Time, or the Affairs and Concerns of the said Society might from Time to Time require, and be under and subject to the several Articles, Conditions, Clauses, and Agreements therein after expressed and contained, and the Rules, Orders, and Regulations which should afterwards be made by the said Court of Directors: And all the Members of the said Society have been admitted Members thereof, under and subject to all such Laws, Orders, Rules, and Regulations; and the Affairs and concerns of the said Society have been, and now Continue to be transacted, conducted, settled, adjusted and carried on by the said Committee, consisting of Nine Trustees, a Treasurer and a Secretary, who are deemed perpetual Directors, and Twenty-seven Directors annually elected, and who respectively are free Members of the said Society, and have been duly nominated, elected, and chosen Directors or a Committee as aforesaid; and by the said Laws, Rules and Regulations, it is stipulated and agreed, that the said DIRECTORS should hold a general Court at the principal Meeting-house of the said Society, on the Third Wednesday in each Month, and extra Courts or Meetings as often as Occasion should require, for the purpose of settling and adjusting the Affairs and Concerns of the said Society, and that the Determination of the major part of the said COURT OF DIRECTORS, should be binding and decisive in all Cases concerning the said Society.

That the Offices of Trustees, Treasurer and Secretary should be held during Life, provided the Persons elected there-to should respectively conform to the Laws, Rules and Regulations of the said Society; and Persons were annually to be elected to the Office of Directors; and the respective Persons named in the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Articles herein after contained, have been duly elected to the Offices of Trustees, Treasurer, Secretary and Directors of this Society, by whom the Affairs and Concerns of the said Society are now transacted, settled, managed, conducted, and carried on; the Members of the said Society having by the said Deed or Policy delegated to them and invested them as a Committee, under the Name or Title of a Court of Directors, with their full and entire Power and Authority for so doing, as the Representatives of the Members of the said Society at large.

AND WHEREAS in and by an Admission, Declaration, or Appointment in Writing, bearing Date the First Day of October, 1794, Signed and Subscribed by the major part of the Members of this Society, they have thereby respectively admitted, that the Persons named in the Third, Fourth and Fifth Articles herein after contained, have as therein mentioned, been duly and legally elected Trustees, Treasurer, Secretary and Directors, and compose the present Committee or Directors of this Society, and that they as the respective Members of the said Society, had delegated and invested the said Persons as a Committee, and do thereby respectively nominate, deligate and invest the said several Persons as a Committee, by the Name of Directors; with their full entire Power and Authority as Members of the said Society, fully and absolutely to govern, transact, manage, regulate, conduct and carry on all and every the Affairs and Concerns of the said Society on behalf of themselves, and all the rest of the Members

thereof; and from Time to Time to assemble together, and to make and constitute such proper and wholesome Rules, Orders and Regulations as to them should seem meet, and to impose and inflict such reasonable Fines and Forfeitures to be paid, for the Benefit of the said Society, upon the several Members of the said Society who should offend against such Rules, Orders and Regulations, as should be just and necessary for duly enforcing the same; and from Time to Time to alter and amend, all such Rules Orders and Regulations as Occasion should require, and to annul and repeal the same; and to make new Rules, Orders, and Regulations, but under such restrictions as are contained in the Act of Parliament in such Case made and provided.

And they do thereby further Testify and declare, that it is their Wish and Desire that the Rules, Orders and Regulations to be made and constituted, should be exhibited in Writing to the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Recorder and Aldermen, Justices of the Peace, when assembled in the next General Quarterly Sessions of the Peace, to be holden for the City of London, or at any Adjournment thereof, for allowance and Confirmation, agreeable to the Act of Parliament for the Encouragement and Relief of Friendly Societies.

NOW KNOW YE, That we whose Names are hereunto Subscribed, having been legally appointed as a Committee, for such and general Purposes for the mutual Benefit and Advantage of all and every the Members of the said BRITISH ASSURANCE SOCIETY, have on behalf of ourselves and all the rest of the Members of the said Society, agreed to all and every the Articles, Rules, Regulations and Restrictions herein after mentioned and contained, and humbly claim the Allowance and Confirmation thereof, at the Time and] in Manner above mentioned.

RULES, ORDERS, REGULATIONS, &c.

ARTICLE I.

That this Society shall, from henceforth, continue to be called and perpetuated by the Name of the **BRITISH ASSURANCE SOCIETY** and that the said Society is established, and **WE**, as the **DIRECTORS** of the said Society, and invested with full Power for such Purpose, on behalf of ourselves and the Rest of the Members of the said Society, **DO** declare, that the Society's present Stock or Fund has been raised, and the Subscriptions, Fines, Penalties and Money, hereafter to be collected and received in pursuance of the following Articles. are respectively to be applied to the laudable Purposes of mutually assisting or supporting, benefiting and relieving the Members of the said **SOCIETY**, the Widows, and Children of deceased Members, in cases of Sickness, Lameness, Blindness, Superannuation, Death, and other Incidents and Casualties, and for the raising a sufficient, permanent and adequate Fund to answer such laudable Ends and Designs. And the following Articles fully declare and direct all and every the Uses and Purposes to which the Monies already raised and funded, as also the Money which hereafter, shall from Time to Time be subscribed, paid, or given to or for the Use or Benefit of this Society, or which shall arise therefrom, or shall in anywise belong to this Society, shall be appropriated and applied, and in what Shares and Proportions, and under what Circumstances any Member of this Society, or other Person shall, or may become entitled to the same, or any Part thereof, agreeable to the Directions of the Act of Parliament in
such

such Case made and provided. And it is hereby declared, that the said Monies, or the Produce of this Society's Stock or Fund, shall not be otherwise diverted or applied, than in Manner as is hereafter mentioned, prescribed, limited, declared and set forth.

II. That all and every the Affairs and Concerns of this Society shall from henceforth, and in Manner herein after mentioned, be governed and managed by Persons elected and to be elected and chosen in Manner herein after mentioned, and set forth as a standing Committee, which said Committee, when full, shall consist of Nine Trustees, a Treasurer, and a Secretary, which said Trustees, Treasurer and Secretary are hereby declared to be perpetual Directors, and Twenty-Seven Directors, who are respectively to hold their several Offices for and during the Term, Period, or Time herein after limited and declared; and that it shall and may be lawful for the said Directors, or any Fifteen of them, whereof the Treasurer and Secretary, or their Deputies for the Time being, shall be Two, to hold a Court or General Meeting at the Society's Hall, No. 129, Aldersgate-Street, London, or other principal Meeting House, on the third Wednesday in every Month, or oftner if found necessary; and extra Meetings to be convened by a General Summons, for the purpose of governing, settling, adjusting and deciding the Affairs and Concerns of the said Society. And any Thirteen of the Directors, with the said Treasurer and Secretary, or their Deputies are hereby declared and deemed competent to proceed on, transact and decide the Business then necessary to be transacted and decided on, by the vote of the Majority of the Directors then present; and the said Directors present shall elect and name from amongst themselves a President, to preside as such during such Meeting. And Minutes shall be made and entered into a Book, to be provided for such Purpose, of

all the Business done and transacted, ordered, adjudged and determined at such Meeting ; and the President shall sign and subscribe such Minutes. And the Doings, Transactions, Adjudications, Determinations, Decisions and Directions of the Majority of the Directors present at such Meeting shall be final and decisive, and be strictly adhered to and complied with, unless repugnant to any of the Articles or Laws herein contained and allowed of and confirmed; but subject nevertheless to an Appeal by Arbitration, agreeable to the fifty-third Article herein contained.

III. That James Bicknell, Benjamin Rouler, John Browne, Christopher Howard Bullock, James Hemp, Stephen Davies, Thomas Stead, Leonard William Johnson, and John Banks, who have been respectively duly elected to the Office of Trustees, as soon as conveniently may be after the allowance and confirmation of these Articles in Manner as prescribed by act of Parliament, shall become bound with Two sufficient Sureties, to be approved of by the Majority of the Directors attending at any of their general or extra Meetings for the faithful Execution of the Trust of their said Office, and for rendering a just and true Account according to the legal Rules, Orders, and Regulations of this Society ; and in all lawful Matters to pay Obedience to the same, in such penal Sum or Sums of Money as the Directors of this Society present at any of their general or extra Meetings, to be convened as aforesaid, may deem necessary and expedient. And on the said Trustees respectively giving and entering into such Surety, shall respectively be and continue in their said Office, and be deemed perpetual Directors for and during the Terms of their natural Lives, unless they shall resign or be removed or expelled therefrom for some just and reasonable Cause

IV. That

IV. That Thomas Wild, of No. 121, Wood-Street, London, Attorney at Law, who has been duly elected Treasurer of the said Society, and Joseph Potter, who is the Framers and Founder, and has been duly elected to the Office of Secretary to the said Society as soon as conveniently may be after the Allowance and Confirmation of these Articles, as prescribed by Act of Parliament, shall each become bound with Two (or the Treasurer, if judged expedient and necessary in more than Two) sufficient Sureties to be as before-mentioned approved of by a Majority of the Court of Directors, at any of the said general, or extra Meetings to be convened and held as aforesaid for the faithful Execution or Trust of their said respective Offices, and for rendering a just and true account according to the legal Rules, Orders, and Regulations of this Society ; and in all lawful Matters to pay Obedience to the same in such penal Sum or Sums of Money as the Directors of this Society present at any of their general or extra Meetings to be convened as aforesaid may deem necessary and expedient, and on the said Treasurer and Secretary respectively entering into and giving such Surety shall respectively hold and continue their said respective Offices of Treasurer and Secretary, and be perpetual Directors for and during the Terms of their respective natural Lives, unless they shall resign, or be removed, or expelled therefrom for some just and reasonable Cause.

V. That George Watfon Wood, Charles Maul, Thomas Wilson, Charles Sangster, Thomas Hart, Thomas Symons, John Shepherd, Neville Pendigrass, Robert Hudswell, James Corner, John Roughead, James Huke, Thomas Carey, Edward Mason, Thomas Bottwright, John Troby, Samuel Hill, William Carter, William Hudswell, Josiah Bowring, Frederick Fisher, John Suatt, Dan Warner Harley, Thomas Norris,

Norris, Thos. Blatch, George Bartley, and Samuel-Lawrence Baldwin, who have respectively been duly elected Directors of this Society, by the Votes of the Members at large, together with the before-mentioned Trustees, Treasurer, and Secretary, and who respectively are all free Members of this Society, shall be the first and present Committee or Directors, of this Society, and are hereby nominated and appointed a Committee for general Purposes, and as such Committee or Directors, and the Representatives of all the Members at large, are invested with the Powers and Authorities herein after mentioned and set forth, and with full, absolute, and entire Power, for governing, guiding, and managing in Manner herein before and after mentioned, all and every the Affairs and Concerns of this Society, and the said Committee shall in Manner herein before and after set forth, have perpetual Succession as a standing Committee for general Purposes.

VI. That the before named Trustees, Treasurer, Secretary and other Directors shall as soon as conveniently may be after the Allowance and Confirmation of these Articles, and before they shall afterwards proceed to act in the Trusts or Powers reposed in and delegated to them as aforesaid, and also every hereafter nominated and elected Director shall, before he proceeds to act in the said Trusts or Powers, subscribe and be sworn before one of the Aldermen of the City of London to an Affidavit in Writing to the following Tenor and Effect.

‘ We do hereby solemnly swear, protest and declare, that we
 ‘ will well and faithfully perform and execute the several
 ‘ Powers and Authorities delegated to and vested in us, as
 ‘ Directors of the British Assurance Society, and that without
 ‘ Favour or Affection, Prejudice or Malice, either towards
 ‘ or against any Officer, Member, or Servant of the Society,
 ‘ or any Person or Persons whomsoever claiming any Right
 ‘ or Interest of or from the said Society.’

VII. That in Case of the Death, Resignation, Removal or Expulsion of any one or more of the Trustees, the Treasurer or Secretary of this Society, the Vacancy occasioned thereby shall, as to the said Trustees, within the Space of Two Calendar Months next afterwards, and of the Treasurer or Secretary, within the Space of Three Calendar Months next afterwards, be advertised in the Front Page of one or more of the Public Newspapers, and therein a Day and Time shall be named, to be appointed by the Treasurer or Secretary and any Three of the remaining Trustees, or by any Six of the said Trustees, for the Election, (Six Days previous to such Election) of One or more Person or Persons, free Members of this Society, to fill up such Vacancy, and the same shall be filled up by the Majority of Votes of such of the Members of this Society who shall attend and give their Vote on the Day, and during the Hours, to be as above nominated and appointed for the same; and the Person or Persons who shall be so elected, on entering into and giving sufficient Surety, as mentioned or directed by the third and fourth Articles, and being Sworn in as before directed, shall take upon himself or themselves the Office and Trusts of a Trustee or Trustees, Treasurer or Secretary, in the Room or Stead of the Person or Persons whose Death, Resignation, Removal, or Expulsion occasioned such Vacancy, for and during the Term of his or their natural Lives, unless he or they shall resign, be removed, or expelled therefrom, for some just and reasonable Cause.

VIII. That the Twenty-seven Directors elected as before stated, by the Votes of the Members at large, and Persons hereafter to be elected in their Stead, shall respectively hold their said Office of Directors of this Society for the Term or Times respectively, and the said Office, and the Trusts or Powers

Powers delegated to them to cease and be determinable, and on such Determination other Person or Persons to be nominated and elected in their Stead, in Manner herein after mentioned, limited, and set forth; unless any of the said Directors shall resign, or be removed, or expelled therefrom for some just and reasonable Cause, viz. The present before mentioned Twenty-seven Directors shall respectively hold their said respective Offices (unless sooner vacated in Manner before mentioned) until the first Monday in the Month of June next following the Allowance and Confirmation of these Articles, in Manner as prescribed by Act of Parliament, when all their Powers, as Directors, shall cease and be dissolved, and the Vacancy occasioned thereby shall be filled up by Twenty-seven Persons, all free Members of this Society, to be elected to fill up such Vacancy, and the same shall be filled up on the following Monday by the Majority of Votes of such of the Members of this Society at large who shall attend and give their Vote at the Time appointed for such Purpose; all of which said Twenty-seven Directors, to be elected as aforesaid, shall hold their said Office until the first Monday in the Month of the then next following June, when Nine out of the Twenty-seven so last elected Directors shall, by Ballot, give up their Office, and their Power as Directors cease, and the Vacancy occasioned thereby shall in Manner as before set forth, as to the said Twenty-seven last elected Directors, be filled up, on the following Monday, by the Election of Nine other Persons, free Members of this Society, to be elected in their Stead, by the Majority of Votes of the Members of this Society at large, voting in Manner as before set forth at the said Election; and that on the first Monday in the then next following Month of June, Nine others of the remaining Eighteen Directors shall, by Ballot, go out of Office, and the Powers delegated to them as Di-

Directors shall cease and determine, and the Vacancy occasioned thereby shall likewise, in Manner as before set forth, on the following Monday be filled up by the Election of Nine other Persons, free Members of this Society, to be elected in their Stead, by the Majority of Votes of the Members of this Society at large; voting in Manner as before set forth at the said Election; and that on the first Monday in the then next following Month of June the Powers of the Residue of and remaining Part of the said Twenty-seven Directors shall cease and determine, and the Vacancy occasioned thereby shall in like Manner, and as before stated, on the following Monday be filled up by the Election of Nine other Persons, free Members of this Society, to be elected in their Stead; and that on the first Monday in the Month of June, in every successive and succeeding Year, Nine Persons, free Members of this Society shall, by an Election to be held on the following Monday, in Manner before prescribed, be elected to the Office of Directors, in the Stead and Place of such of the said Twenty-seven Directors, as shall have held their said Office for Three successive Years; and in Case of the Death, Resignation, Removal, or Expulsion of any one, or more of the said Twenty-seven Directors, the Vacancy occasioned thereby shall be filled up by Persons, free Members of this Society, to be elected in Manner as before prescribed, by the Votes of the Members of this Society at large, in the Place and of the Stead of such other said Directors, whose Death, Resignation, Removal, or Expulsion occasioned such Vacancy, and for the like Term and Duration as any of such Person's respectively would have filled the same.

IX. That all Elections for Trustees, Treasurer, Secretary, and Directors shall be at the principal Meeting House of this Society, and no where else.

X. That

X. That the said Court of Directors for the Time being, shall at all and every their general or extra Meetings, to be held as aforesaid, hear, try, adjudge and determine all Causes, Charges, and Complaints, touching or concerning this Society, or the Members or Servants thereof, and shall on the hearing of such Causes, Charges, and Complaints, when judged expedient and according to the Degree, Nature and Enormity of the Offence, impose and inflict such reasonable Fine or Forfeitures upon such of the Members of this Society as shall offend against all or any of the Rules, Orders, or Regulations of this Society, as shall be just and necessary for duly enforcing the same; which Fines and Forfeitures shall be respectively paid to the Treasurer or Secretary of this Society, for the Use and in Aid of the Society's general Stock, to be appropriated and applied in Manner as set forth in these Articles, and generally to transact, govern, order and direct all and every the Affairs and Concerns of this Society; and all such the Adjudications, Determinations, Impositions, Transactions, Orders and Directions of the major Part of the Persons composing the then Court of Directors shall be binding and decisive, and shall be done and executed, submitted to, paid and complied with, if not contrary or repugnant to these or any hereafter confirmed Article, Rule, Order or Regulation, or the Laws of this Realm, or not discharged, annulled, and declared void on Appeal by Arbitrators to be nominated in Manner as set forth in the Fifty-third Article herein after contained.

XI. That the Majority of the said Court of Directors, at any of their said general or extra Meetings, shall and may appoint such Number of the said Directors, not less than 11 or, if judged expedient, other the free Members of this Society, being not less than 11 as may be deemed necessary and expedient, as a Committee for any particular Purpose or Purposes,

poses, agreeable to and in Manner as prescribed by the Act of Parliament in such Case made and provided, and shall and may also from Time to Time at any of such Meetings make such and so many reasonable Bye Laws and Regulations as from Time to Time shall appear necessary for the better carrying on, upholding, maintaining and regulating the Affairs and Concerns of this Society; and also for keeping good Order, Decency and Decorum in the said Court of Directors, and the Members composing the same; as also all the rest of the Members or Servants of this Society; at any of their Meetings or otherwise and the same Bye Laws and Regulations so to be made, again to revoke, annul, make void, alter, amend, or make anew, as change of Time or the Affairs and Concerns of this Society may from Time to Time require. Provided nevertheless such Bye-Laws and Regulations to be made, revoked, annulled, made void, altered, amended, or made anew, shall not be contrary to or repugnant to any confirmed Rule, Order, or Regulation or to the Laws of this Realm.

XII. That the said COURT OF DIRECTORS, for the Time being, shall at one of their said general or extra Meetings, to be held as aforesaid, and as soon as conveniently may be after the Receipt of the Quarterly Subscriptions or other Payments to be made in the Months of January, April, July and October, in every Year, as herein after mentioned, nominate and appoint five of the Directors for the Time being (none of them being a Trustee,) which said Five Persons, or any Three of them, shall audit and inspect the Society's Quarterly Accounts of all Monies received and disbursed or expended during the previous Quarter, and appoint a Time and hold a Meeting for such Purpose, and from Time to Time adjourn the same if necessary; and the Treasurer and Secretary, and all and every other Officer and Officers, Messenger,

Messenger, Servant, or Member whatever, who are, or shall, or may be appointed to any Office in any wise touching or concerning the Receipt, Management, or Expenditure of any Sum or Sums of Money of or in any wise belonging to this Society, shall, on Summons or Notice, attend at all or any of such Meetings, and produce their respective Accounts; and the said Auditors are to examine into the Use or Uses for which the Disbursements or Expenditures were made, and ascertain the Balance and Amount of the Society's Cash and Stock or Fund; and if the said Accounts are just and right, to certify or subscribe the same, and report the Particulars or Amount of the Receipts and Disbursements, together with the Total Amount of the Society's Stock or Fund, and of what the same consists, and how ascertained, to the Directors, at their next general or extra Meeting, which, if just and right, are to pass the same, or otherwise to make such Order and Direction therein as may be deemed most expedient; and the said Court of Directors shall also from Time to Time, as Occasion may require, appoint a sufficient Number of Persons from amongst themselves, as visiting Members, who are, in Rotation, and in Manner as shall be deemed most expedient, regularly, and as often as Occasion may require, or may be deemed necessary, to visit all the sick or afflicted Members of this Society, resident within Twelve Miles from the Society's principal Meeting-House, or such other Distance as the said Court of Directors may deem expedient; and shall take Account whether they are regularly paid by the Person or Persons appointed for such Purpose; and, by the Aid of medical Men, or otherwise, to enquire minutely into the Cause and Nature of the Sicknefs or other Infirmary under which such sick Persons respectively labour and languish, and to attend from Time to Time to the Progress of such their Sicknefs or Infirmary:

and

and it is hereby declared that the said Court of Directors are vested with Power and Authority, to enforce and take Care, that the sick or afflicted Members use, and are provided with the most proper Means of assisting their Cure.

XIII. That the said COURT OF DIRECTORS, for the Time being, shall and may, from Time to Time, at any of their general or extra Meetings, elect, nominate, put in, choose, or appoint such inferior Officers, or other Servants, as shall or may be deemed necessary, for such Space of Time, and for such Purposes as may be judged expedient; and shall and may also, at their Will and Pleasure, remove all such inferior Officers or other Servants; and also shall and may reward such inferior Officers or other Servants with the Payment of such reasonable Salary or Sums of Money as may be adjudged right to recompence them for, and adequate to the Services to be done and performed by them, touching this Society, and for the true Interest thereof; and shall and may also award, order and direct all such Sums of Money which shall or may be paid to such inferior Officers or other Servants, or which may be necessarily expended or disbursed, or judged necessary, touching the visiting the sick and afflicted Members of this Society, or other travelling Charges of Journeys on the Business of this Society, or the carrying into Execution and Effect all and every the Trusts of these Articles, to be paid by the Secretary or Treasurer for the Time being, and deducted out of the Society's Stock or Fund.

XIV. That if the COURT OF DIRECTORS, for the Time being, shall at any Time hereafter find it necessary and expedient for the recovering, protecting, or defending any of the Society's Stock, Goods, or Chattels, Interests,
Rights,

Rights or Privileges, to commence or defend any Suit or Suits in Law or Equity, they shall and may order and direct the same; and all Suits so commenced or prosecuted shall be prosecuted and carried on in the Name of the Treasurer only, or such One or more of the Trustees, or in the joint Names of the Treasurer or Secretary, and such One or more of the Trustee or Trustees, for the Time being, as may be necessary or judged most expedient for the Benefit of this Society; and all Expences attending the same. shall be paid out of this Society's Stock.

XV. That the Treasurer, for the Time being, shall be allowed to nominate and appoint One or more Person or Persons, free Members of this Society, as One or more Deputy or Deputies under him; and the said Treasurer, or his Deputy, shall attend every Meeting of this Society, public or private, or wheresoever held: and all Monies received by any of the Officers, Servants, or Members of this Society shall be paid to the said Treasurer, or his Deputy, once a Week, when required, and by him paid into the hands of the Society's Banker, in such Manner as the Court of Directors, for the Time being, shall direct and appoint, and the said Treasurer shall make a proper Entry of all Sums of Money so received by him, and of the Society's Stock, and of the Particulars thereof; and the said Treasurer, for the Time being, for and in Consideration of his Trouble and Attendance, in the Execution of his said Office, shall be allowed and paid Twopence per Quarter for each Member the said Society shall or may contain, and also Three-pence out of the Admission Money of each new admitted Member.

XVI. That the Secretary, for the Time being, shall be allowed to nominate and appoint One or more Person or Persons, free Members of this Society, as One or more Deputy or Deputies under him; and the said Secretary or his Deputy shall attend every Meeting of this Society, public or
D private,

private, or wheresoever held, and shall make proper Entries in the Books of this Society of all the Society's Dealings and Concerns, in such Books and in such Manner as shall be best approved of and ordered and directed by the Court of Directors for the Time being, at any of their general or extra Meetings, and also the Particulars of all Monies received and expended; and shall, in a Day-Book to be kept for such Purpose, make a proper Entry of all Monies received, and on what Account the same received, when, and as the same shall be so received; and shall on request pay all Monies received by him to the Treasurer, for the Use of this Society, and shall do, perform, and execute all and singular such Matters, Affairs and Concerns as of right appertains and belongs to the said Office of Secretary. And the present Secretary, as soon as conveniently may be after the Allowance and Confirmation of these Articles, and also every hereafter elected Secretary, shall, before he shall enter on the said Office of Secretary, be sworn before One of the Aldermen of the City of London, to an Affidavit in Writing, as follows

' I A. B. do swear, that I will not knowingly make, or if
' in my Power to prevent, permit or suffer to be made,
' , any false Entry or Entries in any of the Book or Books of
' this Society, but will duly enter or cause to be entered,
' all Money received and paid by me, or any other Person
' by my order for the Use of this Society, and will not con-
' ceal the same, or any Part thereof, from the Directors or
' Auditors of Accounts of this Society, and that I will
' faithfully and truly execute the Office of Secretary of this
' Sociey, to the best of my Power, so help me God.

And the Secretary, for the Time being, for and in Consideration of his Trouble and Attendance in the Execution, of his said Office, shall be allowed and paid Five-pence per Quarter for each Member this Society shall or may contain, and also Three-pence out of the Admission Money of each new admitted Member.

XVII. That Charles Ward, the present Messenger to this Society, shall be continued in such Office during his natural Life, provided he performs and executes the Duties and Services ordered by the Court of Directors to be performed and executed by him as Messenger; and he shall, be attendant on the Secretary for the Time being, to receive Instructions for transacting and performing the several Duties of his said Office of Messenger, and shall regularly and duly pay all weekly and other Sum and Sums of Money due to the several sick and afflicted Members, Widows and Orphans belonging to this Society, and conform himself to all the Rules, Orders and Regulations thereof; and as a Consideration for his Trouble and due Execution of his Office, he shall be paid and allowed Three-pence per Quarter for each Member this Society shall or may contain, and also Three-pence out of the Admission Money of each new admitted Member, and shall likewise be paid Six-pence, for the Delivery of every non Payment Summons, and for the Delivery of every other Summons, One Penny Summonses for any general or extra Meeting of the Court of Directors, or any Committee thereof, or for Auditors of Accounts only excepted.

XVIII. That every Person desirous of becoming a Member of this Society, and shall previous to his Admission sign a Declaration in Writing that he is well affected to his present Majesty and the British Constitution, and of his Age, the State of his Health, his Trade or Calling, and also of the Age and State of the Health of his Wife and Children, (if any,) and such Person, not being any of the Trades or Callings objected to by this Society, and which will be enumerated and set forth in such Declaration or Admission Agreement, and there being no reasonable Objection to such Person, as to his good Character, Morality, or otherwise, shall be admitted a Member of this Society, on Payment of the following Sums or Premiums for such his Admission,

viz. if under Twenty-five Years of Age Fifteen Shillings, and the Advance of Six-pence for every Year above Twenty-five and under Forty. And if such Person is desirous of making himself a free Member at the time of Admission, he shall be at Liberty so to do, upon Payment of the Sum of Three Pounds Fifteen Shillings, together with the additional Sums of Six-pence for every Year; such Person shall exceed Twenty-five and under Forty, above which Age, no Person shall be admitted, unless they Pay at the Time of Admission a Sum equal to what the Admission Premium, and Regular Quarterage would have amounted unto, if they had been admitted at Forty Years of Age; to be computed at the rate of One Pound Twelve Shillings per Annum. And if such Person exceeding Forty Years of Age, is desirous of making himself a free Member at the Time of Admission, he shall be at Liberty so to do, upon the Payment aforesaid; and of the further additional Sum of Four Pounds Nine Shillings, exclusive of the Sum of One Pound Eight Shillings, the remaining Part of the Orphan Money to be paid as after-mentioned, and the Money to be paid for the registering of Members Wives and Children in the Books of this Society.

XIX. That each Person at the Time of Admission into this Society shall either pay down the Sum of Forty Shillings towards supporting the Orphan Benefit, or shall give a Note or Undertaking in Writing to the Treasurer for the Time being, to pay the said Sum of Forty Shillings with Interest on Demand; but so long as such Person shall continue a Member the same shall be paid by Installments of Two Shillings per Quarter, with such Person's other regular Quarterly Subscription Money; but in Case of such Person's Discontinuance or Exclusion as a Member, so much of the said Sum of Forty Shillings and Interest as shall remain unpaid, and all Arrears for Quarterage or otherwise to be forthwith recoverable and payable on Demand; and in Case of the Death of such Person dying, a free Member, the Deficiency (if any) shall be stopped out of the Funeral Money, al-

lowed on the Death of such Member. And if such Person so to be admitted shall be a married Man he shall at the Time of his Admissi^{on}, pay for the Benefit of the Society's Stock the Sum of Two Shillings and Six-pence for the registering the Age of his Wife in the Society's Books; and if such Wife shall exceed Forty Years of Age he shall pay an additional Sum of Two Shillings and Six-pence for each Year she shall exceed Forty Years of Age; and also the Sum of One Shilling and Six-pence for the registering the Ages of each of such of his Children (if any) as may afterwards become chargeable to this Society.

XX. That the Court of Directors for the Time being shall and may, if thought most conducive to the Interest of this Society, raise the Price of Premiums for the Admissi^{on} of Persons either as free or to become free Members in this Society to such sum or Sums as may be thought most expedient, but not to exceed the Proportion of the Society's then Total Stock averaged to each Member it may contain.

XXI. That no Person accustomed to Drunkenness, profane Swearing, or any other kind of Vice or Immoralities destructive of Health, the common good of Society, and beneath the dignity of Man, shall, if known to be such, be admitted a Member of this Society; and in order to prevent the Continuance of any such Person as a Member, or of any other Person against whom a reasonable Objection can or may be made, the Court of Directors for the Time being, at any of their general or extra Meetings shall and may at any Time within Twelve Months after the Admissi^{on} of any Person as a Member into this Society, order and direct all Monies paid by any such Member into the Treasury of this Society, to be returned to him; and upon Payment, or a Tender of Payment thereof, such Person shall be discontinued a Member of this Society, and from such Time such Person shall be deemed as legally expelled the same,

XXII. That each Member shall pay and subscribe to the
Treasury

Treasury of this Society the Sum of Eleven Shillings per Quarter for the first Four Quarters after his Admission, and the Sum of Eight Shillings per Quarter afterwards, exclusive of the two Shillings installment off the Note or undertaking given for Forty Shillings at the Time of Admission; and such Quarterly Payments shall be paid on such Days and Times as shall be appointed for the Payments of the Division (as herein after mentioned) to which such respective Member may belong; and each Member at the Time of making their Seventh Quarterly Payment shall subscribe and pay the Sum of Nine Shillings for one Quarter's Money in advance over and besides the regular Quarter's Money then due, and shall continue to pay their regular Quarterly Subscription Money the same as if no such Money had been paid in advance.

XXIII. That every Person being a Batchelor or Widower at the Time of being admitted a Member of this Society, shall when married, if his Wife shall be under forty Years of Age, pay the Sum of Two Shillings and Sixpence for the registering of his Wife, and if his Wife at the Time of Marriage shall exceed Forty Years of Age, then he shall Pay the further additional Sums of Two Shillings and Sixpence for every Year she shall exceed Forty Years of Age; and all and every the Members of this Society shall after the Birth of every hereafter born Child, pay the Sum of One Shilling and Six-pence for registering the Age of every such Child; and in Default of registering such Wife or Children, within Six Months after Marriage, or the Birth of such Child, shall on making such Registers be charged double the Sums above mentioned to be charged, all which Sums shall be paid into the Treasury of this Society. And no such Register shall be afterwards made or taken, unless such Member and the Wife or Children to be registered, shall be in good Health at the Time the same shall be so made, or taken, or to take effect, only on the restoration of the good Health of such Persons respectively.

XXIV. That such Persons as are admitted Members of this Society under Forty Years of Age, who shall not when admitted pay to make themselves free Members, from the time of Admission shall be deemed Free Members after having paid four Quarterly Payments, and half free Members after having paid Two Quarterly Payments; and such Persons as are admitted Members of this Society upwards of Forty Years of Age, and shall not when admitted pay to make themselves Free Members from the time of their Admission, shall be deemed Free Members after having paid Six Quarterly Payments, and half Free Members after having paid Three Quarterly Payments, over and besides the Premiums and Sums of Money herein before mentioned.

XXV. That for the more ready manner of receiving the Quarterly Subscription and other Monies which may become due to this Society, the Members thereof shall be divided into different Divisions and Days allotted for the Payment of the Members of each Division, and the Persons composing the first Division shall pay their Quarterage and other Money due to the Society on the first Monday, for the second Division on the first Tuesday, and for third Division on the first Wednesday in the respective Months of January, April, July and October, and so on progressively for every hereafter formed Division in the said Society, Yearly and every Year; and all Payments to be made at the Society's principal Meeting-house shall be paid and the Societys Office, shall be open for the publicly doing and transacting all Business relative to this Society from Nine of the Clock in the Morning until Two o'Clock in the Afternoon, and from Five o'Clock in the Afternoon until Eight o'Clock in the Evening. And for the more ready receiving the Quarterly Subscriptions and other Payments of some of the Members of this Society Resident in the Country, the said Court of Directors for the Time being shall and may in like Manner

as they have been heretofore accustomed to do to hold such Quarterly Meetings at distant Towns or Villages in the Country for the Purpose of admitting Members and receiving Quarterly Contributions or Subscriptions and other Monies due to this Society, as they shall from Time to Time judge necessary and expedient, and shall and may continue the same at the Houses already appointed for such Purpose, or discontinue or remove the same, and appoint such and so many other Houses, and to discontinue and remove the same at their Will and Pleasure as may best suit the true Interests of this Society, and as Change of Time and circumstances may require.

XXVI. That in order to raise a sufficient and permanent Fund to answer all the Purposes proposed by this Beneficent Institution, and satisfy all legal Claims on the Treasury thereof, without impoverishing the Society's capital Stock, the Trustees of this Society for the Time being shall out of the Subscriptions and Monies to be received on the Society's Account annually fund the Sum of Two Hundred Pounds for each Thousand of free Members this Society shall or may contain, and the like proportion for any greater or lesser Number than One Thousand Members, until the Society's principal Stock and Fund shall on the Average amount to Ten Pounds for each Member this Society may contain. And unless the Monies to be received by the Dividends, Interest and Proceeds of the Society's present Stock or Capital in Addition to the Subscriptions and other Monies to be quarterly collected will be sufficient for such Purpose after Payment of all Claims made, or to be paid by this Society, the Court of Directors for the Time being shall and may at any of their said general or extra Meetings as aforesaid levy such Rates on the free Members of this Society, and order and direct that exclusive
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of the Quarterly subscriptions to be paid by the Members as before set forth, a further additional Sum, not exceeding Two Shillings per Quarter, shall be paid by each Member on such Quarter Days, and for such length of Time as may appear necessary to enable the Trustees annually to fund the same, until this Society's principal Stock or Fund shall be augmented, to the Rate before-mentioned.

XXVII. That a sufficient Sum of running Cash shall be kept in the Hands of a Banker, in the Names of the Treasurer, Secretary, and such and so many of the Trustees as the Court of Directors for the Time being shall order and direct, to answer all legal Claims on the Treasury of this Society; and such Sums of Money as the Court of Directors of this Society shall be of Opinion the Exigencies of this Society shall not call for the immediate Application or Expenditure of, to lay out, and dispose of the same either in the Public Funds, Government, or other Public or Private Securities, as shall be approved of by the said Court of Directors for the Time being; and all Monies invested in the Funds shall be placed in the Names of Three of the Trustees of this Society who shall have given Security for the due Execution of the Trusts of their said Office; and the Monies to be placed or laid out on Private Securities shall be placed out in the Names of the Treasurer, Secretary, and such and so many of the Trustees as shall or may be ordered, directed, or approved of by the said Court of Directors; and all Deeds, Bonds or Instruments shall be deposited in the Iron Chest of and belonging to this Society, and under the Care of the Treasurer alone, or Treasurer and Trustees for the Time being, or in such manner as shall or may be directed and approved of by the said Court of Directors for the Time being, and all and every the said Trustees, Treasurer and Secretary, shall respectively from Time to Time, and at all Times hereafter, at the Costs of the said Society, and upon the Request,

or on the Order, Direction, or Appointment of the said Court of Directors for the Time being, made at any of their said general or extra Meetings, make a Transfer or other necessary Surrender or Assignment of all such Stock or other Public or Private Securities, and the Property thereby funded or secured as may have been purchased, funded, or secured in their names, when thought needful and expedient.

XXVIII. That if any Person at the Time of his admission as a Member into this Society shall sign or subscribe a false Declaration or Agreement, either as to his Age, Health, Trade or Calling, or as to the Age or Health of his Wife, or Children, or otherwise; or if any Member of this Society shall wilfully bring or recommend, or cause to be recommended, any Person or Persons to become Members of this Society, knowing such Persons ought not to be admitted, and that his or their admission would be contrary to the Laws, Rules, Orders and Articles of this Society, and the general Interest thereof; or if any Member shall be convicted of Felony, or any other infamous or enormous Offence, or shall contract any Debt, or Debts, with intent to cheat or defraud any Person or Persons of his, her or their Property, or shall whilst on the Treasury of this Society be found tipling in a Public House, and his so tipling shall be detrimental to the recovery of his Health, or if any Member whilst on the Treasury of this Society, shall be found working at his Trade or Business, or doing other Work, or Labour; or shall refuse to use or be provided with the most proper Means of assisting the recovery of their Health, or to permit and suffer themselves to be examined by any Physician or Surgeon, to be appointed by the Society, the Member so offending in any or either of the said Cases, and being adjudged guilty of any, or either of the said offences by the said Court of Directors at any of their said general or extra Meetings, he shall

shall be excluded or expelled, as a Member from this Society, and from all the Benefits thereof; and he or they shall forfeit, and lose all Monies paid into the Treasury of this Society for Premiums, Subscriptions, Fines or otherwise; provided nevertheless, that if the Court of Directors for the Time being, at any, or either of their general or extra Meetings, on Appeal, or the due Proof of the Case of any of such respective Members shall be of opinion, that the Case of any such Member merits Mitigation, and in lieu of such Exclusion such Member shall submit, and Pay such Fine as the said Court of Directors shall Nominate, or impose for any such Offence, then upon Payment thereof such respective Persons shall be restored as a Member, and all the Privileges thereof.

XXIX. That when any Person shall become an Half free Member, and shall then be afflicted with Sickness, Lameness, or Blindness, not brought on himself by debauched, disorderly, or irregular Practices, nor happening prior to his becoming an Half free Member, he shall then be allowed the Sum of Five Shillings and Three-pence per Week for the Space of Six Months and no longer, provided such Affliction should so long continue; and if such Half free Member as aforesaid, should be taken with the Small Pox, he shall be allowed Five Shillings and Three-pence per Week, but not for more than Six Weeks; but if any other disorder or affliction, should arise after the Small Pox, then such Half free Member shall be intitled to Five Shillings and Three-pence per Week, for the Space of Six Months longer; and in Case of the Death of any Half free Member, the Sum of Three Pounds shall be allowed and paid for, and towards the Expence of his Funeral, without any Deduction on Account of the Arrears of Orphan Money then remaining unpaid; and in such Case, or in Case of the Death of a Member, before he shall become Half free, the Note given at the Time

of Admission shall be given up; and if the whole of the said Forty Shillings Orphan Money was paid at the Time of Admission, then a like Proportionable share of such Money shall be returned to his Widow, or other Representative.

XXX. That if any Free Member of this Society, shall be afflicted with Sicknefs, Lameness, or Blindnefs, not brought on himself by debauched, or other disorderly or irregular Practices, and not happening Prior to his actually becoming a Free Member, and being rendered unable to follow his Trade, Calling, or Occupation, and not having paid Three Years Subscription Money to this Society, then he shall be allowed and paid Ten Shillings and Six-pence per Week; and if such Member so afflicted, shall have paid Three Years Subscription Money, to the Treasury of this Society, and having made the Payment hereafter mentioned for same, shall then be allowed and paid Twelve Shillings per Week; and if such Member so afflicted, shall have paid Five Years Subscription Money to the said Treasury, and having made the Payments herein after mentioned, for the same shall be allowed, and paid the Sum of Thirteen Shillings per Week; and if such Member so afflicted, shall have paid Seven Years Subscription Money to the said Treasury, and having made the Payments herein after mentioned, for the same, shall then be allowed and paid Fifteen Shillings per Week, for and during the Time such Accident, Sicknefs. or Affliction may continue; that is to say, that when any Member shall have paid Three Years Subscription Money, he shall then pay the Sum of Five Shillings, to intitle himself to the Sum of Twelve Shillings per Week for Sick Money; and after
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having paid Five Years Subscription Money, he shall likewise Pay the Sum of Seven Shillings and Six-pence, to intitle himself to Thirteen Shillings per Week for Sick Money; and after having paid Seven Years Subscription Money, he shall likewise Pay the sum of Ten Shillings, to intitle himself to Fifteen Shillings per Week for Sick Money; provided nevertheless, and it is hereby stipulated, that if such accident, Sickness, or Affliction, wherewith such Member shall or may be afflicted, should continue, and such Member should continue to receive any of the said Benefits, for the Space of Twelve Calender Months, or One Whole Year successively, or by one, or more return or returns of the same Sickness, or Affliction at different periods of Time, amounting together to Twelve Calender Months, or One Whole Year; then the aforesaid Benefits shall cease, and be no longer paid, and such afflicted Member shall be deemed a Pensioner, and such Member as shall not have paid Three Years Subscription Money, shall then be allowed and paid the Sum of Four Shillings and Six-pence per Week; but such Member as shall have paid Three Years Subscription Money, and paid the Sum of Five Shillings as aforesaid, shall be allowed and paid the Sum of Five Shillings and Six-pence per Week; and such Member as shall have paid Five Years Subscription Money, and paid the Sum of Seven Shillings and Six-pence as aforesaid, shall be allowed and paid the Sum of Six Shillings per Week; and such Member as shall have paid Seven Years Subscription Money, and paid the said Sum of Ten Shillings as aforesaid, shall be allowed and paid the Sum of Seven Shillings and Six-pence per Week; all which Weekly Money due to such afflicted Members as aforesaid,

aforesaid, shall be paid on or before the Saturday in each Week, (unless where otherwise appointed to be paid), and so continue during Life, or during the Time such Member may be rendered unable to get his Bread, by his Trade, or Calling; but when any such sick or afflicted Member, so receiving any of the aforesaid Benefits, as a Pensioner, shall be recovered, or shall be adjudged by Two Persons of the Faculty, eminent in their Profession, to be recovered, and able to follow his Trade, or Calling, which he was before used to follow before such Affliction happened, then all Payments from the Society shall cease, and be no longer paid; but if such Member so recovered, shall have a return of the same Affliction, he shall then only be paid the reduced Weekly Payments as a Pensioner, provided also, and where such return shall exceed Two Years from the Time such Member was before afflicted, then such Member shall not be deemed a Pensioner, on Account of such Prior Sicknes, or Affliction; but such afflicted Member shall receive the full Benefits, which by Time and Payment he may have a Right to receive for the same, as if he had never before received any of the Benefits from this Society; and no afflicted Member so becoming a Pensioner as aforesaid, shall be allowed to Work, or follow any kind of Employment, without Licence to be granted by the COURT OF DIRECTORS, for the Time being at any of their general or extra Meetings, and which Licence shall not be granted for more than Three Months at any one Time; but shall be renewable from Time to Time, at the Discretion of the said Court.

XXXI. That such Member as shall, or may in the Opinion, and Judgment of the Court of Directors for the
Time

Time being, and so declared at any of their said general or extra Meetings, be superannuated, or by Age, or other Infirmary, rendered unable to follow his usual Occupation, Trade, or Calling, shall be deemed and admitted a Pensioner; and shall be allowed and paid such Weekly Pension Money during his Life, as by Time and Payment he may have a Right to Receive, in the same Manner as Pensioners become, so from having received the Benefits from the Treasury of this Society, for One Year or upwards; and such Members as shall be admitted Pensioner's through age shall be allowed to Work in such trifling matters as he may be able to Perform.

XXXII. That if any Free Member shall be taken with the Small Pox, he shall be paid Seven Shillings and Sixpence per Week, for Six Weeks and no longer; but if any other Disorder, or Affliction should arise after the Small Pox, such Member shall be paid Ten Shillings and Sixpence per Week for Twelve Months; but if such Disorder, or Affliction should continue, and exceed the said Twelve Months, then such Member shall be deemed a Pensioner, and shall be paid the same as those other Pensioners at Four Shillings and Sixpence per Week as aforesaid; but no Money shall be paid in Case of Inoculation, or from any Disorder, or Affliction arising from the Small Pox after Inoculation. And such Member as may Die with the Small Pox, in the Natural Way, or by any Disorder or Affliction proceeding therefrom, Five Pounds shall be paid for his Funeral; but if any Free Member shall Die with the Small Pox, or with any Disorder or Affliction proceeding therefrom after Inoculation, the Sum of Three Pounds only shall be paid for his Funeral.

¶ The Provisions in the Act of Parliament made for the Encouragement and Relief of Friendly Society's, extend only to the application of Funds, raised to be distributed in Case of Sickness, Old Age, or Infirmary, or for the Relief of Widows or Children of deceas'd Members, as such, so much of the following Article as relate to an Allowance to Members imprisoned for Debt, has not been confirmed by the Magistrates, but such Allowance is made by Authority of their former Articles, and the Approbation and Private Agreement of the Members, admitted Members Subsequent to the Confirmation of this Society's Articles.

XXXIII. That if any free Member shall be imprisoned for Debt, not contracted previous to his becoming a free Member of this Society; nor by any swindling or fraudulent Intention, he shall upon Application to the Court of Directors for the Time being, and they being fully satisfied of the Rectitude and good moral Conduct of such unfortunate Debtor, be allowed and paid Four Shillings per Week from the Time of Notice of his Confinement to the Secretary, and until he shall obtain the Groats, which Groats he shall not neglect to sue for, or endeavour for an Accommodation with his Creditor or Creditors, under the Penalty of Exclusion from all the Benefits of this Society during the Remainder of the Time of his then Confinement; and such Member so neglecting shall also continue to pay his Quarterly Contributions to the Treasury in the same Manner as if he was at large and enjoyed his full Liberty, and otherwise be subject to the Penalties in that Case made and provided, and if such Member shall obtain the Groats he shall be paid only One Shilling and Eight-pence per Week from the Time he shall obtain the same until he shall be discharged; and such Member so in Custody, and having such Allowances shall not be subject to any Payment to the Society during the Time he shall so remain in Custody for such Debt; and the Treasurer of the Society for the Time being may, on Application, lend such Monies

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From the Treasury as shall be necessary to sue for the Groats, and if lent, the Monies so lent shall be afterwards stopped out of the Weekly Money allowed to such Member, at the Rate of Six-pence per Week, and no more: and such Members as shall purchase the Rules of the King's Bench or Fleet Prisons, shall not be allowed the aforesaid Benefits, and if previously allowed them, then on the purchase, the same shall immediately Cease; but provided such Member so in Custody for such Debt, should be afflicted with Sickness, Lameness, or Blindness, he shall only be paid Nine Shillings a Week, instead of the Benefits aforesaid, subject to the same Regulations as those other free Members who may receive the Benefits from the Society for the space of Twelve Months.

XXXIV. That when any free Member shall Die, the Sum of Ten Pounds shall be allowed and paid on his Decease; but if such Member shall have paid Four Years Subscription Money to the Treasury of this Society, and shall then also have paid the Sum of Six Shillings for such advance, the Sum of Twelve Pounds shall be allowed and paid on his Decease; and if such Member shall have paid Eight Years Subscription Money to the said Treasury, and shall then have paid the Sum of Twelve Shillings, for such advance the Sum of Fifteen Pounds shall be allowed and paid on his Decease; save and except, only a Deduction shall be made thereout of such part of the Forty Shillings Orphan Money as shall remain unpaid, together with such Quarterage and other Monies, as shall, or may be justly due and owing to the Treasury of this Society, at the time of the Decease of such Member. Provided nevertheless, that the Sum of Ten Pounds only shall be allowed and paid on the Death of such Member's, as shall die after becoming a Pensioner upon the Treasury of this Society, and the Monies

to be allowed and paid as aforesaid, on the Decease of Members, shall be paid to the deceased Member's Widow, but if no Widow, to his Child or Children, equally share and share alike; but in default of both, to his legal Representative, or other Person legally authorized to receive the same. And the one half of such sum as would be allowed and paid on the Decease of such respective Member, shall be allowed and paid to such Member, upon the Decease of his Wife. And where it may be required, or necessary the Treasurer and Secretary for the Time being, shall and may pay and discharge the necessary Expences attending Funerals of the said deceased Members, provided the Monies allowed as aforesaid; shall be sufficient for that Purpose, and the remainder if any, shall be paid to the Persons entitled to receive the same; and all Sums of Money due upon the Decease of any Person shall be paid within Fourteen Days after the Funeral is performed, unless the Treasurer, Secretary, or any One of the Trustees for the Time being, upon any matter of doubt, shall find it necessary to refer the same to the Consideration of the Court of Directors, at their next general or extra Meeting.

XXXV. That no Member either by Time or Payment of any of the Sums specified in the Thirtieth or Thirty-fourth Articles, or any other of the Articles, or Orders of this Society, shall be allowed or paid, any greater Sum or Sums of Money Weekly, or otherwise for the Continuance of any Sickness, or other Affliction, commencing or happening Prior to the herein before respective stipulated Times, than what he was actually entitled to receive, both by Time and Payment, when such Sickness or Affliction first happened, commenced, or took place, but if he should recover from such Sickness, or other Affliction, he may then, if he thinks
proper,

proper, avail himself of such further and other advanced Benefits, as he may be entitled to, and on Payment of the Sums before mentioned, the same as if paid at the said herein before respective stipulated times for Payment thereof.

XXXVI. That when any free Member of this Society shall Die, leaving a Child or Children lawfully begotten, the Widow or other Representative of such free Member, shall then be allowed and paid a Sum not less then One Shilling per Week, for each, and every such Child or Children so left, to be applied for and towards their Maintenance and Education, and such Sums shall be paid Weekly, Monthly, Quarterly or otherwise, as may best suit, such Widow, and such Payments to continue for such respective Children, until they shall respectively attain the Age of Fourteen Years, and at such Age to Cease; but in Case of the Death of such Widow, or other Representative, or in Case of the Death of any free Member leaving a Child or Children, and no Widow, or other Relation, to take the Charge and Management of such Child or Children; then such Child or Children so left destitute, shall be fully provided for; cloathed, maintained, and educated, under the Direction of the Court of Directors of this Society, for the Time being, and at the Expence of the general Fund thereof, until they shall respectively attain the Age of Fourteen Years; then the Boys to be bound out Apprentices to Trades, and the Girls to be placed out in such Manner as the said Court of Directors for the Time being, shall then Judge most Convenient and Proper.

XXXVII. That if any free Member of this Society shall Die, leaving a Widow, and such Widow shall be Pregnant at the Time of the Decease of her said Husband, such Widow shall be allowed and paid the sum of Fifteen

Shillings per Week, (or Three Pounds) for the Four Weeks of her Lying-in; Exclusive of the Payments herein before-mentioned.

XXXVIII. That when any free Member of this Society shall Die, leaving a Widow, and the Court of Directors, for the Time being, shall upon Application to them, adjudge such Widow to be so far advanced in Years as to be rendered unable to Provide for herself, she shall on such Application, be allowed and paid a sum not less than Two Shillings and Six-pence, nor exceeding Seven Shillings per Week, for and during the Residue of her Life, and if any free Member shall Die, leaving a Widow at the Time of his Decease, under any Temporal Affliction by Sickness, or otherwise, such Widow, although not incapacitated by Age, shall then be allowed and paid a Sum not less than Two Shillings and Six-pence, nor exceeding Seven Shillings per Week, for and during the Time of the Continuance of such Affliction; provided always, that every such Widow who shall not be superannuated at the Time of the Decease of such free Member, shall pay and Subscribe the Sum of Twelve Shilling per annum, by Four equal Quarterly Payments, to Commence, and the First Payment to be made within one Month from the Funeral of her Husband, and the Second, on the First Monday in the Second Quarter-day, to be held, in the Months of January, April, July, or October next following, after the Decease of such free Members, and so continue to Subscribe, and pay, or Cause to be paid, the Sum of Three Shillings, on or before the First Monday in each, and every of the said Months of January, April, July and October Yearly; and every Year, and when in Default of any One of the said Quarterly Payments, such Widow so in Default shall be excluded from all future Benefits of this Society; unless afterwards re-
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stored on the Payment aforesaid; and if such Widow so subscribing as aforesaid, shall be afflicted with Sickness, Lameness, or Blindness, not brought on herself by any disorderly Imprudent, or Irregular Conduct, such Widow shall be allowed and paid a Sum not less than Five Shillings per Week, during the Continuance of such Affliction, but if such Affliction should continue for Twelve Calendar Months, then such Widow shall be reduced to the Sum of Two Shilling and Six-pence per Week, during the Continuance of such Affliction; provided notwithstanding, that when and as soon as any such Widow shall Marry again, she shall forfeit all future Claim to all such Benefits; and in Case any such aged, or afflicted Widow shall Die during her Widowhood, then such deceased Widow shall be decently buried, at the Expence of this Society, but such Funeral is not to exceed in Expence, the Sum of Three Pounds Ten Shillings,

XXXIX. That in Case any Member shall fail, neglect, or make default in registering of his Wife, Child or Children, in the Society's Books, and paying the respective Sums for the same, as ordered and stipulated by the Nineteenth and Twenty-third Articles herein before contained; such Member shall not be entitled to receive any Sum of Money, for, or on Account of the Death or Funeral of such Wife; and in Case of the Decease of any such Member, such his unregistered Widow, Child or Children, shall not be entitled to any Benefit from the Treasury of this Society, as the Child or Children of such deceased Member, nor shall the Widow be entitled to any further Benefit than the Money allowed for the Funeral of such deceased Member; any thing herein before contained to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

For the Reasons stated between the Thirty-second and Thirty-third Articles, the Magistrates have not confirmed the following Article, but the Allowance is made under the like Authority, as is there stated.

XL. That if any free Member of this Society, shall sustain a Damage in the Loss of his Working Tools, Furniture, or other Effects; not consisting of Money, Bank Notes, Bills, Bonds, or other Securities for Money, by Fire happening, at his, or their Places of Residence, or the Loss of Working Tools by Fire happening at any other Place, and being uninsured, and on making an Inventory of the Effects so Lost, and thereby Particularizing the same, and the respective Value of each Item, contained in such Inventory, and on making an Affidavit, that he, or they were uninsured from Loss by Fire, and that the Goods, Chattles, or Effects contained in such Inventory was his own Property, and of the Value charged in such Inventory, and that he, or they had not been otherwise reimbursed or paid the Amount of such Loss; or any Part thereof, (except as may be therein declared), such Member shall be paid a Sum not exceeding Twenty Pounds; as may be a sufficient Compensation for the Amount of the Damage so sustained, but the Monies to be paid on Account of such Losses, respectively shall not be paid or borne by, or out of the Society's Stock, but by an equal Contribution of all the Members of this Society, to be paid, collected, and received, in such Manner as the said Court of Directors for the Time being, may at any of their said general or extra Meetings, stipulate and appoint.

XLI. That if any Member of this Society shall neglect, or be in Default of Payment of his, or their regular Quarterly Subscription Money, or of any other Arrears of Monies required to be paid therewith, or paid when due;
either

either for Fines, Taxes, or otherwise, after the Expiration of the Quarter Day appointed for Payment of such Division, to which such Member or Members shall, or may respectively at such Time belong, agreeable to the Directions of these Articles, then such Member or Members so in default, shall be excluded from all the Benefits of this Society; and he, or they is hereby adjudged to have forfeited and lost all Monies paid into this Society, either for Premiums, Subscriptions, Fines, or otherwise. Provided, nevertheless, if any Member excluded for such default, shall personally appear on or before the Quarter-day then next following, for payment of such Division, to which such Person or Persons shall, or may have so belonged, and being then found in Body, Health and Mind, and no reasonable Objection being made against him, or them, as to his or their Character, or General Conduct, or to the then State of the Health of such Person or Persons, or any part of his or their Family, then he or they having been so excluded, shall upon such Condition, and on Payment of all such Subscription Money, Fines and Arrears as shall, or may be then due, together with an Additional Fine of One Shilling be readmitted, or restored to the same situation, that he or they were in, as private Members of this Society before such Default of Payment happened; and in Case of any such Default, the Secretary for the Time being, shall send by the Messenger, or by the General or Penny Post; a Notice or Summons to such Person or Persons so in default of the neglect of Payment of the said Quarterly Subscription Money; and other Arrears, at least Fourteen Days prior to such Second Quarterly Day of Payment as aforesaid, unless such Person or Persons shall remove out of England, or beyond the Seas, or shall remove from his Place of Residence, without giving Proper Notice to the Secretary, at the Society's Office

Office as herein after mentioned. Provided also nevertheless, if any such respective Members neglect, or default of Payment, should be occasioned by any Accident, Misfortune, or want of Employment, and such Person being desirous to continue a Member of this Society, and shall appear before the Court of Directors, at any one of their general or extra Meetings, after such Second Quarterly-day of Payment, and shall give to the said Court a Satisfactory Proof of such Accident or Misfortune, and his Inability to make good his Payments to the Treasury of this Society, and that the Persons so expelled, and appealing, is deserving of Indulgence, then and in all such Cases, the Court of Directors for the Time being, shall grant such longer Time as shall be judged expedient for such Member to make good the same.

XLII. That such Member or Members as shall, or may be Sick, or otherwise afflicted, and receiving any of the Benefits from the Treasury of this Society, shall nevertheless continue to Pay their Quarterly or other Monies, the same as other Members then in Health, or unafflicted, or otherwise, such Member or Members so being in Default, will be Subject to the Penalties contained in the foregoing Article, except such Member or Members shall become a Pensioner, or Pensioners, then and in such Case, all Payments from such Member or Members to the Treasury of this Society shall Cease, and be no longer paid.

XLIII. That all the various Sums herein before-mentioned and stipulated by the Thirtieth and Thirty-fourth Articles herein before-contained, to be paid by the Members of this Society, for advance of Benefits for Sick, Funeral, and Pension Money, shall be progressively paid by such of the respective Members of this Society, as intend

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to entitle themselves to such advanced Benefits within Six Months after the respective Times limited for Payment of the same, or on making Default in any of the said Payments; such Members so making Default, shall only be entitled to such of the said advanced Benefits as they shall have duly and progressively paid for; provided notwithstanding the Court of Directors for the Time being, at any of their said general or extra Meetings, may on the Appeal of any Member giving a Satisfactory Reason for not paying the same, grant such further Reasonable Time to make good any of the said Payments, as they may judge expedient, on Payment of One Shilling fine for each of the said Neglects; but all such respective Payments, nevertheless to be made, and paid only during such Time as such Member respectively, and such of his Family, as are registered in this Society, are in good Health, or to take place on the re-establishment of the same, and the Secretary of this Society for the Time being, shall within the first Three Months after any of the said Payments become due, from any respective Member, send a Summons or a Notice thereof to him, informing him of the same; and all Summonses, Warnings, or Notices of, or touching this Society, or the Members thereof, delivered to any Person paying the Quarterly Subscription of any Member, shall be deemed a good delivery of any Summons, Warning, or Notice to such respective Member; and be as binding as if delivered to such respective Member in Person.

XLIV. That when any Member or Members Wife shall Die, who shall reside within Two Miles from the Society's principal Meeting House, Notice thereof shall be sent to the Secretary for the Time being, within Twenty-four Hours after such Decease, and as soon after as Conveniently may be, the Day and Time of the Funeral, that the Mes-

senger for the Time being, or other proper Officers of this Society may if necessary attend the same; and all Funerals shall be performed in a decent Manner, free of all Parish Gifts; or on failure of such Notice; and of Funerals performed at a greater Distance, proper Certificates shall if required be produced, signed by the Minister, and any Two of the Parish Officers where such Burial was made, and by the Undertaker certifying the Place where such Funeral was performed, that the same was decently performed, and free of all Parish Gifts.

XLV. That every Member being afflicted, and claiming any of the Benefits from the Treasury of this Society, as contained in the foregoing Articles, shall send a Declaration in Writing to the Society's Office of such Claim, and therein state, or insert the Respective Division to which he belongs, and the Number he stands in the Society's Books, in such Division, together with a proper Direction of his Place of Residence; and no Notice need be taken thereof, unless such a Proper Declaration shall be sent, and the Benefits claimed by such Member so sending such proper Declaration, shall Commence from the Morning after the same shall be received at the Society's Hall; and if such Member shall reside beyond the limited distance prescribed for Members to visit them, such Member shall to such his Declaration, subjoin a Certificate, subscribed by the Physician, Surgeon, or Apothecary attending such afflicted Person, as also by the Minister, Churchwarden, Overseer, Mayor, Justice of the Peace, or any Three of them in the Town, City or Parish, where such afflicted Member shall, or may reside, and send to this Society's Office, such a renewed Certificate every Fourth Week, during the Continuance of such his Affliction, and from, and Immediately after every such Member's recovery, he shall send to this Society's Office, a Declaration off the Treasury, which shall take place from

the evening of such Declaration, therefore no Member may Transact or Perform any Business on the Day he so declares off the Treasury, he being paid for that Day, unless he gives Notice thereof in such Declaration; nor shall any Member be out from his Place of Residence at an improper Hour in the Evening, (or in bad Weather in the Day Time), whereby he may be liable to take cold, or retard his recovery, or otherwise, to abuse that indulgence which is granted to afflicted Members on the Treasury of this Society. And if any afflicted Member on the Treasury of this Society should go out from his Place of Residence, for the Benefit of the Air, or for Advice, he shall leave a particular Account in Writing, where he is gone to, and on what Account, and if possible, or as near as can be the Time he means to return, in order that the visiting Members may at all Times know where to find, and have free access to Visit, and see such afflicted Members. And if any such afflicted Members on the Treasury of this Society, shall go from home, without leaving such Notice as aforesaid, he, or they so offending, for each Offence, shall forfeit the amount of One whole Weeks pay. And if any afflicted Member on the Treasury of this Society, should have his Weekly Money, (due from the said Treasury), stopt on any Account whatsoever, and such Member being able to declare off the Treasury, and go to his Business before the Cause of such Stoppage shall be settled and determined by the Court of Directors for the Time being, such Member shall in that Case declare off the said Treasury in a regular Manner, the same as if such Money had not been stopt, or otherwise, such Member will be Subject to the same Penalty as if found at Work, while actually receiving the Benefit from the Treasury of this Society.

XLVI. That if any Member of this Society shall have any Complaint, or Complaints against any other of the Members of this Society, such Complaint or Charge shall be delivered in Writing to the Secretary, for the Time being, who shall thereupon Summons the Person complained of, to answer the same, at least Three Days before the hearing thereof; and all, and every the Members of this Society, shall, on Summons, Notice, Warning, or Request in Writing, from the Secretary of this Society for the Time being, to be delivered to such respective Member, or any Person paying his Quarterly Subscription Money, or left at his usual Place of Abode, Forty-eight Hours at least, previous to the Time mentioned for the Attendance of the Court of Directors, at any of their said general or extra Meetings, and submit themselves to be examined on Oath or otherwise if required, touching any matter or thing relating to this Society; or touching the Bad Conduct of any other Member, or Person belonging thereto, and on failure thereof by any such Member without a reasonable and satisfactory excuse, to be approved and allowed of by the said Court of Directors, he shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Twenty Shillings for every such offence, or neglect and such fines to be paid to the Society's Stock or Fund.

XLVII. That if any Member shall remove from One Place of Residence to another, he shall within Thirty Days give Notice of his removal to the Secretary of this Society for the Time being; that a proper entry thereof may be made in the Society's Books, or on failure thereof, he shall forfeit and pay the Sum of One Shillings for every such neglect.

XLVIII. That when, and as soon as this Society's principal Stock or Fund, shall be so far augmented, as on an average to Amount unto, or exceed the rate of Ten Pounds
for

for each Member contained in this Society. The Court of Directors of this Society for the Time being, at any of their general or extra Meetings, may proportionably so far increase, all the respective Payments and Benefits herein before contained, to be paid and allowed to the Members of this Society, their Families, Widows and Children in the respective Cases of Sickness, Lameness, Blindness, Superannuation, Death, and other Incidents herein before enumerated and set forth, so as not to decrease the said Capital Stock, or Fund, to a lower or lesser Rate, than what mentioned and stipulated in the Twenty-Sixth Article herein before contained; and that every Person heretofore admitted a Member of this Society, and every Person claiming under them, shall be entitled to all and every the Payments contained in the printed Articles, delivered to them at the Time of their respective admissions into this Society, any thing herein before contained to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

XLXIX. That for the accelerating the Business of this Society, and to prevent as much as possible, any delay, and more Particularly in the non-attendance of the Directors for the Time being, at any of their general Monthly Meetings, at such Hours as shall be agreed on, and at the Times to be settled and appointed for extra Meetings, and to be convened by a general Summons, in manner herein before mentioned, it is hereby limited, declared, and agreed, that if a sufficient number of the said Directors, shall not be attending at the times to be settled and agreed on; and when called over in Rotation by Name, so as to Compose a Court agreeable to the Second Article herein contained, that all the absentees shall forfeit and pay a fine of Two Shillings and Sixpence, for such Default or Neglect, unless prevented by illness, or other unavoidable or satisfactory Cause or Excuse, to be admitted and allowed of, by the Majority of the said Court of Directors at any of their said general or extra Meetings, and that if a Director, not a Trustee, shall absent himself,

himself, and not attend for Three regular and successive Monthly Meetings, without such unavoidable and satisfactory Cause, to be admitted and allowed of as aforesaid, he shall forfeit his Seat or Office of a Director of this Society, and some other free Member shall be elected in his stead, in manner as directed by the Eighth Article herein before contained; and that if a Director being a Trustee, shall absent himself, and not attend for Three regular and successive Monthly Meetings, without such unavoidable and satisfactory Cause, to be admitted and allowed of, as aforesaid, he shall forfeit and pay the Sum of One Pound One Shilling for every Third Night; all such Fines to be paid for the Benefit of this Society's Stock; and the said Court of Directors, shall and may at any of their said general or extra Meetings augment and raise the fine for the non-attendance of a Director, being a Trustee to any Sum not exceeding Two Pounds Two Shillings, as they may think fit and expedient.

L. That an annual Feast of the Directors of this Society, shall at their discretion be held, or otherwise on the last Tuesday in the Month of June Yearly, at such Convenient House or Place as shall be appointed for such purpose, and Tickets shall be issued by such of the Directors as shall be appointed to provide a Dinner for such of the Members of this Society, as shall attend on such Day; and all such Members as choose to Dine with the Court of Directors, in Commemoration of the Day on which this Society was first founded, shall send for their Tickets Three Days previous thereto, and no Part of the Expence incurred by such Dinner, shall be paid, borne, or sustained by, or out of the Stock or Fund of this Society, but such expence shall be paid and sustained by, and out of the Monies to be received for such Tickets; and the residue, or overplus made good by an equal Contribution of the Members neglecting to take out and pay for such Feast Tickets.

LI. That the Secretary of this Society for the Time being, on the Application, and at the request of any Member of this Society not being in Default, or in Arrears of Quarterage, Fines, or other Monies due to the Treasury thereof; shall procure a Certificate, under the Hands of the Treasurer, and One or more of the Trustees of this Society for the time being, to be attested by One or more Credible Witness or Witnesses, certifying and acknowledging such respective Member to be named in such Certificate to be a Member of this Society, and all such Certificates respectively, shall express the Place or Places of Abode, respectively of the Persons signing and attesting the same, and shall also procure the Oath or Affidavit of One of the said Witnesses attesting the Execution thereof, that he did see the Persons whose Names are thereto set, severally sign the said Certificate, and that the Signatures thereto are of their respective proper Hand Writings, to be annexed to the said Certificate, the Member so applying for, and requesting the same, paying the Sum of Three Shillings and Six-pence to the said Secretary, as a Compensation for the Trouble and Expence he may be at in procuring and obtaining the said Certificate and Affidavit.

LII. That the Court of Directors for the Time being, shall, and may at any of their said general or extra Meetings, if judged expedient, Order and Direct the Expence incurred, by this Society, touching the attending to the Progress of the Bill in Parliament, relative to Benefit Society's, the procuring several Salutory Alterations to be made therein; the preparing and soliciting a Petition to the Right Honorable the House of Lords, against the Fifteenth enacting Clause, afterwards introduced into the said Bill, and procuring the insertion of the Sixteenth enacting Clause afterwards introduced in the Act of Parliament, intituled " An Act for
the

the Encouragement and Relief of Friendly Societies," empowering Societies to refer all Disputes to Arbitration; as also touching the revision, and drawing out of this Society's Rules, Orders, and Regulations; and the Procurement of the Allowance and Confirmation thereof, agreeable to the said Act of Parliament, and the printing the said revised Rules, Orders, and Regulations for each of the Members of this Society, to be paid and borne by an equal Contribution of all the Members of this Society, at the Times and in Manner as shall, or may be thought expedient, and deemed most proper, and to be paid in addition to their present Quarterly Subscription Money, and such expences incurred thereby, replaced to the Society's Stock, or Fund, to be paid by the said Members, in such Manner as may be ordered in addition to their present Quarterly Subscription Money.

LIII. That if any Person having been admitted a Member of this Society, his Widow or Children, or any Person whomsoever, claiming any of the Benefits of this Society shall think himself, or herself aggrieved by any Act, Matter or thing whatsoever done, or omitted to be done by this Society, or any Officer, Servant, or Member thereof, or any Person acting under them, or any of them, such grievance or supposed grievance, and all Matters in dispute shall be referred to arbitration, and to be determined and decided by Persons to be named and elected Arbitrators, as follows, (that is to say) that on any Person or Persons thinking themselves, himself or herself aggrieved, shall give notice in Writing to the Secretary of this Society for the Time being, of such supposed Grievance, and of the Names, Occupations and Places of Residence of Six Persons, all of whom residing not more than Twelve Miles distant from the Society's principal Meeting House, to be summoned as Arbitrators, and within Seven Days after the Receipt of such Notice, any Three or more of the Trustees of this Society, shall Name and
Appoint

Appoint Six other Persons, all of whom residing not more than Twelve Miles distant from the Society's principal Meeting House, to be summoned as Arbitrators, and the Secretary of this Society for the Time being, shall within Seven Days after such Nomination and Appointment, cause the said Twelve Persons to be summoned to attend Forty-eight Hours at least, before the Time therein appointed, at the Society's principal Meeting House, at a Day and Hour, to be therein named, not exceeding Seven Days from the Date of such Summons; and the Persons attending within One Hour from the return of the said Summons, or the Time therein named for such attendance, shall by Ballot, Appoint a Thirteenth Person, and if any of the said Twelve Persons so summoned, shall neglect or make default, to attend within One Hour after the return of the said Summons, other Persons in lieu of the Persons so making default, shall be named and appointed in their stead, by the Vote of the Majority, of such of the said Persons as shall be so summoned, and in due Time attend thereon; and the said Thirteen Persons so elected, Named, and Chosen as aforesaid; (no One of whom being a Director of this Society), are to be Arbitrators, and the said Arbitrators shall after being Sworn Peremptorily proceed to hear and determine the Matters of Grievance, or supposed Grievance, according to the true purport and meaning of the confirmed Rules, Articles, and Regulations of this Society, and the Majority of the said Arbitrators, shall make such Order therein, and thereon as to them shall seem Just, and therein shall award such Costs, not exceeding the Sum of Five Pounds, touching such Appeal or Arbitration, to such party to be paid by such other Party, as to them shall seem just and reasonable; and every such Order shall be complied with, and shall be final to all Intents and Purposes, and shall not

be Subject to further Appeal, or other kind of Litigation,
and the Secretary for the Time being, shall be allowed
and paid Six-pence for each of the said Summonses, as a
Consideration for his Trouble touching the same.

Tho. Wild Treasurer
Jos^h Potter Sec^y

T R U S T E E S.

Birkneel

Benjⁿ Roulers
John Browne

C. H. Bullock

James Hemp

TRUSTEES, CONTINUED.

Step.ⁿ Davies
Thomas Stead
Geo. W.^m Johnson
W. Banks

D I R E C T O R S.

G. W. WOOD	§ J. ROUGHEAD
CHAS. MAUL	† JAMES HUKÉ
THOS. WILSON	† THOS. CAREY
CHAS. SANGSTER	† EDWARD MASON
THOS. HART	† THO. BOTTWRIGHT
THOS. SYMONS	† JOHN TROBY
JOHN SHEPHERD	† SAML. HILL
NEVILL PENDYGRASS	† WM. CARTER
ROBT. HUDSWELL	† WM. HUDSWELL
JAMES CORNER	§ JOSIAH BOWRING

DIRECTORS, CONTINUED.

FREDK. FISHER

§ THOMAS BLATCH

JOHN SUATT,

§ GEORGE BARTLEY

DAN WARNER HARLEY

AND

THOMAS NORRIS

§ SAML. LAW. BALDWIN,

LONDON,

BE it remembered that at the General Quarter Sessions, of the Peace of our Lord the King, holden for the City of London, (by Adjournment), at the Guildhall, within the said City, on Thursday, the Twenty-seventh Day of November, in the Thirty-fifth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, King of Great-Britain, &c. before Thomas Skinner, Esq. Mayor of the City of London; William Pickett, Esq. one of the Aldermen of the said City; Sir John William Rose, Knight, Serjeant at Law, Recorder of the said City; Stephen Langston, Esq. one other of the Aldermen of the said City, and others of their Fellows Justices, of our said Lord the King, assigned to keep the Peace of our said Lord the King; within the said City, and also to hear and determine divers Felonies or Trespasses, and other Misdemeanors committed within the said City.

The several Rules, Orders and Regulations, before-mentioned, are by the Justices now here after, due examination thereof, allowed and confirmed, Pursuant to the Statute in such Case made and provided.

By the Court
Per

FORM OF DECLARATIONS,

ON and OFF the Treasury, with a Copy of a Certificate
from Country Members, as required by the 45th Article,

See Page 50 and 51.

DECLARATION ON THE TREASURY.

I. A. B. A Member of the BRITISH ASSURANCE SOCIETY,
being at this Time afflicted with (here Name the Disorder, and if
Possible, the Cause thereof), do hereby Claim the Benefit from the
Treasury of this said Society, as allowed for the Members thereof, in
such Cases. As Witness my Hand, the Day of 17

Here insert the Numbers Division, }
and Place of Residence. }

A. B.

DECLARATION OFF THE TREASURY.

I. A. B. A Member of the BRITISH ASSURANCE SOCIETY,
having recovered of my Late Affliction, send this Notice of declaring
OFF the Treasury. As Witness my Hand, the Day of 17

A. B.

The Form of a CERTIFICATE from the COUNTRY.

These are to certify, that A. B. (whom we are informed is
a Member of the BRITISH ASSURANCE SOCIETY),
is at this Time very Ill, Lame, or otherwise, as the Case
may be at in the Parish of
in the County of and we do firmly
believe that it is a real Affliction, and no ways brought
upon himself by any disorderly Practices, or irregularity of
Conduct, he behaves himself well, and in a regular manner
keeps

keeps good Hours, and is not able to Work, and to the
best of our Judgments is deserving the Benefit of your
Society as Witness our Hands, the Day
of 17

N. B. The above Certificate must be signed by the Physician, Surgeon, or Apothecary, attending such afflicted Person, as also the Minister, Churchwarden, Overseer, Mayor, Justice of the Peace, or any three of them in the Town, City, or Parish, where such afflicted Member shall or may reside, and to be renewed once in four Weeks, or so long as such Affliction may last.

Abstract of the Act of Parliament, made and passed in the Thirty-third Year of the Reign of King George the Third, Intituled an Act for the Encouragement and Relief of Friendly Societies.

THE Preamble sets forth, That the Protection, and Encouragement of Friendly Societies, for raising, by voluntary Subscription, Funds for the mutual Relief and Maintenance of the Members in Sicknefs, Old Age, and Infirmary, is likely to be attended with very beneficial Effects; by promoting the Happinefs of Individuals, and diminishing the public Burthens, it is therefore enacted, That any Number of Persons in GREAT BRITAIN may form themselves into a Society for the purpose of raising, by Subscriptions, or by voluntary Contributions, a Fund for the mutual Relief and Maintenance of all the Members, in Old Age, Sicknefs, and Infirmary, or for the Relief of the Widows and Children of deceased Members; and that the Members of each Society, or a Committee, may make such Rules, for the better Government and Guidance of the same, as to the Major Part of them shall seem meet, so as they be not repugnant to Law, or the Provisions of this Act, and may impose Fines upon the Members who shall offend against them; and also may alter, amend, or repeal, the same, and make new Rules in Lieu thereof.

Such Rules, when made, altered, or amended, shall be exhibited to the Justices at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, or at an Adjournment, who shall annul such as shall be conformable thereto; and the Rules so confirmed shall be signed by the Clerk of the Peace, and a Duplicate deposited with him, to be filed with the Rolls of the Sessions; which Rules shall be binding upon all Parties; and no Society hereafter
established

established shall be deemed to be within the Intènt of this Act, until Rules for the Government of the same shall have been confirmed and filed as aforesaid.

No Rule confirmed by the Justices shall be altered or repealed but at a General Meeting of the Society, convened by Public Notice, in pursuance of a Requisition by Three of the Members, and read at the Two Meetings of the Society next before such General Meeting, unless a Committee shall have been nominated for that Purpose, in which Case it shall be convened in like Manner, and unless such Alteration or Repeal shall be made with Concurrence of Three-fourths of the Members of the Society then present, or of such Committee; and such Alteration or Repeal shall be subject to the Review of the Quarter-Sessions, and shall be filed as before directed.

Every such Society may appoint a Steward, President, Warden, Treasurer, or Trustee, also Clerks and other Officers; and all Persons appointed to any Office concerning the Receipt, Management, or Expenditure, of Money, shall (if required by the general Rules of the Society) become bound with Two Sureties for the faithful Execution of the Trust; and such Bonds, on Behalf of the Treasurers or Trustees, shall be given to the Clerk of the Peace, and, on Behalf of any other Persons, to the Treasurer or Trustee of such Society for the Time being: and no such Bond shall be chargeable with a Stamp Duty.

Treasurers or Trustees, with the Consent of the Society, shall lay out such Money as the Exigences of the Society shall not call for the immediate Expenditure of, either on private Securities, or shall invest it in the Public Funds.

The Interest of the Moneys laid out or invested, shall be applied for the Use of the Society.

All Officers who shall receive any Moneys, or shall be intrusted with the Disposition or Custody thereof, and their Executors, &c. shall, on Demand, give in their Accounts, and pay the Balance, and assign, or deliver all Securities or Funds taken or standing in their Names, or being in their Custody; and, in case of Neglect or Refusal, to the Society may exhibit a Petition in the Chancery or Exchequer in ENGLAND, or the Court of Sessions in SCOTLAND, or the Courts of Great Sessions in WALES, who shall make such Order therein as to them shall seem just.

No Fee shall be taken, by any Officer of such Court, for any Thing done in Pursuance of this Act; and, on the presenting of any Petition, the Lord Chancellor, the Master of the Rolls, and Barons of the Exchequer, in ENGLAND, or the Lords of Session in SCOTLAND, or the Judges of the Courts of Great Sessions in WALES, may assign Counsel, and appoint a Clerk of Court to carry on the Petition; and no such Proceedings shall be chargeable with any Stamp Duty.

If any Officer intrusted with, or having in his Hands or Possession, any Moneys or Securities belonging to the Society, shall die, or become a Bankrupt, or Insolvent, his Executors, &c. shall, within Forty Days after Demand, deliver over all Things belonging to such Society, to such Person as they shall appoint, and pay out of the Assets of the Officer, the Money due, before any of his other Debts,

All Moheys, Securities, and Effects, belonging to the Society, shall be vestsd in the Treasurer or Trustee for the Time being, who may bring or defend Actions in his own Name; and no such Action shall be discontinued by the Death or Removal of such Person from Office.

All the Rules shall be entered in a Book, to be kept by One or more of the Members, and shall at all seasonable Times be open for Inspection; and shall be deemed Originals, and received in Evidence; and no CERTIORARI shall be allowed to remove any of the Rules into any of the Courts of Record at WESTMINSTER.

Any Society may receive Donations to their Fund, which shall be applicable to the general Purposes of such Society.

If Provision shall be made by the Rules of any Society for a Reference by Arbitration of Disputes, all the Matters in Dispute shall be referred to such Arbitrators as shall be elected in the Manner prescribed by the Rules; and their Award shall be conclusive.

No Member of a Society, who shall reside in any Place, not having a legal Settlement there, or who shall come or reside there, and shall deliver to the Parish-Officers a Certificate, under the Hands of Two of the Officers of the Society, acknowledging him to be a Member thereof, shall be removable by virtue of any Law relative to the Settlement of the Poor till he shall become chargeable to the Parish.